

CJ 530
CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION
FALL SEMESTER, 2006

Instructor: John P. Matthews, Ph.D.
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- 9:00pm
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Classroom: University Center
Class Hours: Tuesday, 6:00pm
Office: CJC Room C-212

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An analysis of the criminal justice system in the United States; role of justice agencies as part of societal response to crime, the knowledge base of criminal justice; issues, problems, trends.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To facilitate the development of a macro view of criminal justice;
2. To facilitate an understanding of the systemic nature of the processes of criminal justice;
3. To facilitate an understanding of criminal justice system dysfunctions;
4. To facilitate student interest in current theory and research in criminal justice;
5. To analyze the efficacy of past and present criminal justice practices; and
6. To encourage students to envision programs and practices that might facilitate the desired end states of criminal justice agencies.

GRADING POLICY:

There will be four criteria for student evaluation:

1. Mid Term Exam (30% of final grade)
2. Final Exam (30% of final grade)
3. Mini-papers - over the course of the semester students will be assigned various topics on which to prepare a mini-paper (usually no more than 500-750 words). (30% of final grade)
4. Class participation (10% of final grade)

ATTENDANCE:

In accordance with University policy regular class attendance is expected. Excessive absences will be sanctioned. Absence of 9 hours or less will not be sanctioned. Absence of more than 9 hours will be sanctioned by the loss of one letter grade for each additional three hours of absence or part thereof. Absence of more than 15 hours will result in the assignment of a grade of "F" for the course.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe religious holy days shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy days. This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

MAKE UP WORK:

If any student must miss an exam he/she must inform the instructor as soon as possible and no later than 5:00pm on the Friday following the missed exam. Those who miss an exam will be required to make up that exam at the convenience of the instructor. If a student is absent from a class on a date that a mini-paper is due the student is responsible for the timely delivery of the mini-paper by e-mail, US mail, or delivery by another student.

TEXTBOOKS:

Walker, Samuel: Sense and Nonsense About Crime and Drugs: A Policy Guide (Sixth Edition). West/Wadsworth Publishing Company, Belmont, CA.

Hickey, Thomas: Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Criminal Justice (First Edition). McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series, Dubuque, IA

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

The faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion - the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource material, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student Guidelines, distributed by the Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines.)

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY:

Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center, Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (ext. 1720).

OFFICE HOURS:

Because the instructor of this class is serving as adjunct faculty there will be no formal office hours posted. The instructor can generally be reached by telephone or by e-mail at the numbers and address listed above, and will make himself available before and after class and during class breaks as needed.

COURSE OUTLINE:

August 22 - Introductions, Expectations, and Purposes of the Course

August 29 - The Objectives of Criminal Justice

Read Walker 1 and Hickey 6.

September 5 - Conceptualizing Criminal Justice

Read Walker 2 and Hickey 8

September 12 - Evaluating Criminal Justice

Read Walker 3 and Hickey 9

September 19 - Who Commits Crime?

Read Walker 4 and Hickey 10

September 26 - The Impact of Law Enforcement

Read Walker 5 and Hickey 1

October 3 - Can Crime be Deterred?

Read Walker 6 and Hickey 13 and 17

October 10 - Mid Term Exam - Take Home

October 17 - Imprisonization

Read Walker 7 and Hickey 3, 12, and 15

October 24 - The Role of the Courts

Read Walker 8 and Hickey 7 and 11

October 31 - Crime Victims

Read Walker 9

November 7 - Guns and Crime

Read Walker 10 and Hickey 4

November 14 - Treatment Options for Criminals

Read Walker 11 and Hickey 2 and 14

November 21 - Legislation

Read Walker 12 and Hickey 5 and 16

November 28 - Drugs and Crime

Read Walker 13 and Hickey 20

December 5 - Course Overview

Read Walker 14 and Hickey 18 and 19

December 12 - Final Exam