

CJ 261.6
Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
Fall 2007
Location CJC A190

Professor: Dr. Gaylene Armstrong
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Classroom Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11a-12:30p
Classroom: CJC A190
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1-2:30p or by appointment

Textbook:

Siegel, L.J., & Senna, J.J. (2008). *Introduction to Criminal Justice* (11th edition).
Thomson/Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.

Course Description:

As per the catalog description, this course is an introductory course designed to familiarize students with the facets of the criminal justice system, the sub-systems and how they interrelate, processing of offenders, punishment and its alternatives, and the future of the criminal justice system. This course will review the agencies and processes involved in the administration of criminal justice. We will examine the history of English law, the criminal justice processes and system, including underlying ideologies, procedures, fundamental legal concepts, as well as the roles and functions of police, courts and correctional services.

Course Objectives:

In addition to understanding the concepts noted in the above description, by the end of this course, students will:

1. understand the criminal justice system within the context of U.S. society
2. be informed consumers of information about the criminal justice system
3. be able to critically discuss the various facets of the criminal justice system
4. be able to debunk myths about crime and the criminal justice system

Attendance Policy:

Attendance in class is mandatory and attendance will be taken as per university policy. Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on four exams each worth 25% of your grade. You can track them here:

	My grade	Contribution to final grade
Exam #1	_____	25%
Exam #2	_____	25%
Exam #3	_____	25%
Final Exam	_____	25%

Final letter grades will be determined according to the following scale:

100 - 90 = A 89 - 80 = B 79 - 70 = C 69 - 60 = D 59 or less = F

There are no opportunities for extra credit in this course.

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Make up Exams/ Illness:

Make up exams will be given only if a student has [1] contacted the instructor prior to or on the day of the exam (before 5 p.m.); **and** [2] has a University recognized absence which include illness documented by a physician, religious observance, and participation in University activities at the request of University authorities. Official documentation must be provided.

Study Aids:

Our textbook has a website that contains important study aids that will assist you in succeeding in this course. The site has a combination of activities such as self assessments, flash cards, crossword puzzles, and matching games. Each of these tools can be a fun and educational method of reviewing the course material. This website will be linked to our Blackboard course website or can be accessed at www.Thomsonedu.com/criminaljustice/siegel

Classroom Conduct:

Due to the size and nature of this class, behaviors that are not on task are especially disruptive to a comfortable learning environment. I feel it is very important to be considerate of others in this regard.

- All cell phones, pagers etc. should be turned off during the class. Texting and IM is not appropriate during class.
- Students should not engage in off task behavior such as holding sidebar conversations, reading the newspaper etc.
- Habitual late entrance or early exiting from the classroom is disruptive and disrespectful to the instructor as well as your fellow students. If you arrive late, take the first seat available next to the entrance.
- Students engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the class and may be withdrawn from the course.
- Respect others in discussions and the classroom as you wish to be respected.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to do their own work on all exams. Violations of academic integrity will result in a grade of "F" on parts of the course, a failure of the entire course, or a recommendation for suspension from the University. See the university academic dishonesty policy for further information at:

www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty.

Students with Disabilities:

If you are visually, hearing or physically impaired, have a learning disability, and/or have a communication disorder that may affect your performance in this class, please schedule an appointment with the professor as soon as possible so that provisions may be made to better ensure that you will have an equal opportunity to meet the requirements of the class. Also see www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html for the disabled student policy and www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html for services available for disabled students.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Day 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 who 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.

Course Calendar

Subject to change at the discretion of the professor to accommodate the pace of the class.

Students are responsible for all reading on the date listed on the syllabus.

Date	Topic	Reading
	Section 1	
August 21	Introduction	
August 23	Perspectives on Justice	Chapter 1
August 28	Perspectives on Justice	
August 30	Measuring Crime	Chapter 2
September 4	Understanding Crime and Victimization	Chapter 3
September 6	Understanding Crime and Victimization	
September 11	Criminal Law	Chapter 4
September 13	Criminal Law	
September 18	Exam #1 on Chapters 1-4	
	Section 2	
September 20	History of Policing	Chapter 5
September 25	History of Policing	
September 27	Police: Organization, Role & Function	Chapter 6
October 2	Police: Organization, Role & Function	
October 4	Current Issues in Policing	Chapter 7
October 9	Current Issues in Policing	
October 11	Police and the Rule of Law	Chapter 8
October 16	Police and the Rule of Law	
October 18	Exam #2 on Chapters 5-8	
October 23	Courts	Chapter 9
October 25	Courts	
October 30	Prosecution and Defense	Chapter 10
November 1	Pretrial Procedures	Chapter 11
November 6	The Criminal Trial	Chapter 12
November 8	The Criminal Trial	
November 13	Exam #3 on Chapter 9-12	
November 15	Inside the Jury Room	
November 20	Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 13
November 22	Punishment and Sentencing	
November 27	Community Corrections - Probation	Chapter 14
November 29	Community Corrections	
December 4	Correctional Institutions	Chapter 15
December 6	Correctional Institutions	

EXAM #4 will be held during exam period as per university policy

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 13th, 2007 at 11 a.m.