

CJ 665
Community Theory and the Administration of Justice
Spring Semester, 2008

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Classroom - TUC
Class Hours - Mondays, 6:00pm - 9:00pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the nature of criminal justice organizations as components of the political, social, and economic inter-organizational networks that comprise communities. Topics such as the intersection of criminal justice, mental health, juvenile justice and the educational systems are examined. The impact of criminal victimization and attributes of communities that foster crime are examined in detail. The processes that motivate and implement change in community based organizations are also addressed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To facilitate student understanding of the variables involved in defining communities;
2. To facilitate student understanding of the roles, tasks, functions, and interfaces of the various criminal justice agencies;
3. To facilitate student understanding of the processes involved in the development of expectations within communities of their criminal justice agencies;
4. To facilitate student understanding of research strategies for learning about communities;
5. To facilitate student understanding of the difficulties of determining the causes of crime;
6. To facilitate student understanding of how various social issues, such as mental health, education, immigration, and the media impact the administration of criminal justice; and
7. To provide students the opportunity to build and present a strategy for program development and implementation toward resolving problems involved in providing appropriate criminal justice services to communities.

GRADING POLICY:

There will be four criteria for student evaluation:

1. Mid Term Exam - 30% of grade
2. Final Exam - 30% of 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). Each of these will be graded on a scale of 0-10. - 30% of grade
4. Class Participation - It is the instructor's belief that the nature of this course requires active participation on the part of all students. - 10% of grade.

ATTENDANCE:

In accordance with University policy, regular attendance is expected. Excessive absences will be sanctioned. Absences of 8 hours or less will not be sanctioned. Absence of more than 8 hours and less than 14 hours will result in the loss of one earned letter grade. Absence of more than 14 hours will result in the assignment of the grade of "F" for the course.

STUDENT ABSENCE ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending class 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 section 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. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under section 11.20, United States Tax Code.

MAKE UP WORK:

If any student must miss an exam that student 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 must miss 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 person.

TEXTBOOK:

There will be no textbook for this class. At each session the instructor will assign readings or topics to be covered. Primary sources of readings will be Internet research, newspapers, journals, and handout material provided by the instructor.

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 materials, 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 that manual.)

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 as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (ext. 1720).

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES:

Students may be required to identify and recruit various "community leaders" to come to the class and to share his/her community's expectations of the criminal justice system. This requirement will be outlined in detail in class.

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 addresses listed above, and will make himself available before and after class and during class breaks as needed.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1/28/08	Introductions, expectations, and purposes of the course.
2/4/08	Community Theory - Definitions and Difficulties
2/11/08	The Administration of Justice - Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How
2/18/08	Sources of Expectations of Criminal Justice - Accuracy and Adequacy
2/25/08	Survey Research as a Means to Measure Communities
3/3/08	What do You Expect of the CJ System - Community Perspective #1
3/10/08	Spring Break
3/17/08	Crime Causation - What do we Know? Community Perspective #2 MID TERM EXAM DUE
3/24/08	Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System Community Perspective #3
3/31/08	Victimization and the Fear of Crime Community Perspective #4
4/7/08	Immigration and Criminal Justice Community Perspective #5
4/14/08	The Media and Community Perspective Community Perspective #6
4/21/08	The impact of Malfeasance, Misfeasance, and Nonfeasance on Community Perspective
4/28/08	The CJ System - Apart From or A Part Of the Community It Serves - An Attempt at Synthesis
5/5/08	The CJ System and the Community - Predicting the future
5/12/08	Final Exam