

STEPHANIE STROUD
Adjunct Professor
Sam Houston State University
College of Criminal Justice
Classroom: A201

(936) 435-2441 ext. 234
Email: sss005@shsu.edu
Office: C-LO1
Office Hours: 5-6pm Tuesday.
or by Appointment

Law and Society
CJ 430
Spring 2008
(Tuesday 6-9pm)

A course in the nature and function of the laws of our society and how those laws are created, applied, and changed. Particular emphasis will be on the criminal justice system and how society views the rules of that system as well as how those rules are applied to different elements within society.

Course Objective: To study modern societal issues such as race and gender to determine how those issues affect the administration of the criminal justice system.

Textbook: *Law, Justice and Society*, (Walsh and Hemmens, 2008).

Office Hours: Tuesday, 5:00-6:00pm or by appointment

- **Grading Policy –**

Grades will be determined using the following formula:

Test I	25%
Test II	25%
Group Project	30%
Current Events	10%
Class Participation	10%

Individual instructions for the group project and current events will be provided during class and posted on Blackboard.

- **Make-up Exams –**

Make-up exams will be scheduled by appointment. Make-up exams will only be given for students who notify me in advance of anticipated absence on exam day or for students who provide documentation detailing the reason for absence by the beginning of the next class session.

- **Academic Honesty –**
This course will be conducted pursuant to the University rules regarding academic honesty which can be read at the following web address:
<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

- **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 ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Please refer to the following website for additional information:
<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

- **Services for Disabled Students -** <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

- **Attendance Policy –**
Attendance will be recorded pursuant to University policy. More than two absences will result in failure of the course. This rule applies to all absences, excused and unexcused. It is the responsibility of the student to sign the roll sheet. Failure to sign the roll sheet will be considered as an absence. Falsely signing the roll sheet will in automatic failure of the course.

- **Religious Holiday Policy -** see the following website:
<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE	NOTES
Jan. 22	Introduction: What are we doing here?			
Jan. 29	Law: Where does it come from and how do we apply it?	Chapters 3 & 4		
Feb. 5	Criminal Law: The Basics	Chapters 5 & 6	Current Event #1	
Feb. 12	Civil and Juvenile Law	Chapters 7 & 8		
Feb. 19	Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly	Blackboard	Current Event #2	Guest Speaker
Feb. 26	Judges and Juries: Where does the real power lie?	Blackboard	Current Event #3	
March 4	Exam I		Group Presentation Proposals Due	
March 11	SPRING BREAK!!!!			
March 18	The Death Penalty: The Pros and Cons	Blackboard	Current Event #4	
March 25	Men vs. Women: Are the Rules Really Different	Blackboard	Revised Proposals Due	
April 1	Race: Does It Really Matter	Blackboard	Current Event #5	Guest Speaker
April 8	As Society Changes – So Do The Rules Abortion, Euthanasia, Sexual Predators, Adoption	Blackboard	Written portion of presentation due	
April 15	Exam II			
April 22	Group Presentations			
April 29	Group Presentations			
May 6	Final Discussion and Evaluation			