

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: POLI 203

FALL 2016

Class Times: Monday and Wednesday evenings 7-8:15 PM

Instructor: Rhett Dunaway

Office Hours: By Appointment

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This is a survey course covering the American criminal justice system. Students will learn the elements of a criminal charge (what is the legal basis for a charge) as well as how an arrest moves through the criminal justice system to a final disposition. Students will learn about the various players and their roles in the criminal justice system: police, victims, defense and prosecuting attorneys and judges. The history of our criminal justice system will be explored as well as the very practical aspects of a criminal case including analyzing a criminal case, bond settings, preliminary hearings, and the ethical considerations of a defense attorney. The full spectrum of dispositions will be examined including dismissals, pre-trial options, specialty courts, guilty pleas and trials.

In addition to the textbook (Criminal Law and Procedure, Scheb & Scheb) some outside reading will be assigned.

You will be expected to have read the assigned material in advance of the lecture. Regular and on-time attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will negatively impact your final grade.

Final grades will be based on class attendance and participation, as well as written assignments and observation of at least two guilty plea courts (approx. 20%), and four in class tests (approx. 80%). Make up tests are not guaranteed. If you are aware of a conflict or have an excused absence at the time of a scheduled test – then it is your responsibility to notify me in advance of the test to determine if alternative arrangements can be made. Similarly, if you are aware of an attendance issue for a lecture or guilty pleas, then I expect you to communicate that issue to me in advance of your absence. Finally, if there are any special circumstances that will hinder your ability to complete the course work, tests or other requirements, or any issues that will limit your potential to succeed in the class – then please let me know.

Grading Policy:

A 94-100 A- 90-93.99 B+ 87-89.99 B 83-86.99 B- 80-82.99 C+ 77-79.99
C 73-76.99 C- 70-72.99 D+ 67-69.99 D 63-66.99 D- 60-62.99 F below 60

This semester's schedule of lectures, test and assignments is on the reverse of this page.

Schedule for Criminal Justice – Fall 2016. This is subject to modification as circumstances require.

- Wed. 8/24 Introduction and Chapter 1.
- Mon. 8/29 Chapter 2.
- Wed. 8/31 Chapters 3 and 4.
- ~~Mon. 9/5 TEST #1 Covering Chapters 1-4. Then lecture on Chapter 5.~~
- Wed. 9/7 Chapter 6.
- Mon. 9/12 Chapter 7. Review Test #1 results.
- Wed. 9/14 Chapter 8.
- Mon. 9/19 TEST #2 Covering Chapters 5-8. Then lecture on Chapter 9 **** Attend Guilty Plea Court this week 100 Broad Street, 4D
- Wed. 9/21 Special Panel Group Presentation.
- Mon. 9/26 Bryan Stevenson Lecture.
- Wed. 9/28 Discuss Bryan Stevenson Lecture and Review Test #2 results.
- Mon. 10/3 Chapter 10.
- Wed. 10/5 Chapter 14.
- Mon. 10/10 Finish Chapter 14 then Chapter 15.
- Wed. 10/12 TEST #3 Covering Chapters 9,10,14 &15 then SENTENCING and HANDGUNS
- Mon. 10/17 Start movie "Murder on a Sunday Morning". **** Attend Guilty Plea Court this week 100 Broad Street, 4D**** Review of Test #3 results.
- Wed. 10/19 Finish watching "Murder on a Sunday Morning" then class discussion.
- Mon. 10/24 Chapter 16.
- Wed. 10/26 Chapter 17.
- Mon. 10/31 Start "My Cousin Vinnie"
- Wed. 11/2 Finish "My Cousin Vinnie"
- Mon. 11/7 FALL BREAK – NO CLASS – DON'T GET ARRESTED!
- Wed. 11/9 What a ridiculously short Break! Chapter 18.
- Mon. 11/14 Chapter 19.
- Wed. 11/16 Chapter 20
- Mon. 11/21 Test #4 Covering Chapters 16-20.
- Wed. 11/23 Thanksgiving.
- Mon. 11/28 Review Test #4 results.
- Wed. 11/30 TBA
- Mon. 12/5 TBA