POLI 203: CRIMINAL JUSTICE
COURSE SYLLABUS
FALL 2018

PROFESSOR: Alex Ginsburg, 101 Meeting St. 843-810-6684 (cell), ajginsbu@cofc.edu

LOCATION AND MEETING TIME: Maybank 207, Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment, prior to lectures, or after lectures

COURSE OVERVIEW

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 practical aspects of a criminal case including analyzing a criminal case, bond settings, preliminary hearings, and 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 essence, the purpose of this class is to make you informed citizens.

COURSE MATERIALS

No text is required. Lectures are crucial. Do not email me for lecture notes. Be diligent in your note taking and ask a fellow classmate.

COURSE POLICIES

Students with Special Needs or Circumstances

1. Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class or as soon as the student has been approved for services so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged.

2. The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

3. This College abides by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see an administrator at the Center of Disability
Services/SNAP, (843) 953-1431 or me so that such accommodation may be arranged.

**Academic Honesty**
Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others’ exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at: [http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honorsystem/studenthandbook/index.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honorsystem/studenthandbook/index.php)
GRADING PROCEDURES

Grading Scale
1. Exam – 3 tests + one case review (65%)
2. Courtroom Observations (15%)
3. Documentary Write-up (10%)
4. Attendance and Participation (10%)

Grades will be assigned based on the following.
A: 93-100, A−: 90-92, B+: 88-89, B: 83-87, B−: 80-82, C+: 78-79, C: 73-77, C−: 70-72,
D+: 68-69, D: 63-67, D−: 60-62, F: 59 or below

Late Work
Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted unless there is a legitimate reason for its tardiness. I wholeheartedly understand that life happens, however, late work is not accepted in the “real working world.” If a student misses an exam, the students must contact me within 24 hours of a missed exam and present a legitimate reason for missing the exam. If a student does not contact me or if the reason is not legitimate, the student will automatically fail the exam and will not have an opportunity for a make-up test.

Courtroom Observations
Students must attend at least two guilty plea court observations OR the equivalent amount of time of a criminal trial. Students must then write a response detailing their observations of the proceedings. **Presentable dress is required. Please do not go to Court wearing a t-shirt, shorts, or a revealing outfit. Put your phone on silent (not vibrate) or turn it off. It will be taken from you if it rings in Court and you may be found in contempt (thrown in jail).**

Attendance and Participation
Class attendance and participation represent 10% of your grade in this course. The easiest way to participate is to attend class. Therefore, roll will be taken in each class. Beyond attendance, students will be expected to have read the assigned readings prior to each class session and to come to class prepared to critically discuss the scheduled topics.

ASSIGNMENTS

8/21  No Class.
8/23  Intro and Fundamentals of Criminal Law and Procedure
8/28  Organization of the Criminal Justice System and the Pretrial Process
8/30  Constitutional Limitations; Substantive Criminal Law: Elements of a Crime and Parties to a Crime
9/4   TEST # 1

9/6   Inchoate Offenses

9/11  Homicidal Offenses and Other Offenses Against Persons. *Material for next class will be handed out.*

9/13  Vicarious trauma. *Interacting with victims and defendants – Guest lecture (Victim Advocates and Social workers)*

9/18  **Attend Guilty Plea Court** (100 Broad St, Courtroom 4D)

9/20  Property Crimes

9/25  Vice Crimes

9/27  **TEST # 2. Start Documentary “The House I Live In”**

10/2  Finish Documentary “The House I Live in” and Discussion. **Guilty plea write up due.**

10/4  Criminal Responsibility and Defenses

10/9  **Begin Case Reviews – Defense Specific. “House I Live in” write up due.**

10/11 **Case Reviews**

10/16  Search and Seizure Part 1

10/18  Search and Seizure Part 2

10/23  Arrest, Interrogation, and ID Procedures

10/25  **Case Reviews: Law Enforcement and Criminal Procedure**

10/30  **Guest Lecture: Law Enforcement**

11/1  **TEST # 3**

11/6  **FALL BREAK. NO CLASS.**

11/8  The Criminal Trial

11/13  The Criminal Trial - **Attend Court – either guilty plea or part of a criminal trial** (100 Broad St, Courtroom 4D)
11/15  Case Review – The Trial

11/20  GUEST LECTURE. (ASOL, PD, Judges, Paralegals)

11/22  THANKSGIVING BREAK. NO CLASS.

11/27  TBD

11/29  LAST DAY OF CLASS