CRIMINAL JUSTICE: POLI 203 sections (03) and (04)
FALL 2019
Class Times: Monday and Wednesday -- 2:00-3:15 and 3:25-4:40PM
Classroom: Maybank 207

Instructor: Rhett Dunaway
Office Hours: By Appointment
(843) 442-9696
dunawayrc@cofc.edu

Course Introduction and Objectives:

This is a survey course covering the American criminal justice system. We will cover a lot of ground! 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 attorneys, prosecutors, and judges. The history of our criminal justice system will be explored as well as the practical aspects of a criminal case: how to analyze a criminal case; bond settings; preliminary hearings; and the ethical considerations of attorneys practicing in this area of law. The full spectrum of dispositions will be examined including dismissals, pre-trial options, specialty courts, guilty pleas and trials.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester students will understand the foundations of the American Justice system; be able to identify specific crimes; understand the many players involved in our criminal court system; predict likely dispositions of criminal cases; and understand the various possible outcomes available in our modern day court system.

In addition to the textbook (Criminal Law and Procedure, Scheb & Scheb) some outside reading will be assigned. I am always asked if “buying the textbook is really necessary?” It has been my experience that students who have the textbook and read it do better in the class. Films will also be shown in class. Additionally, you will be required to attend at least two sessions of General Sessions court to observe guilty pleas in downtown Charleston, on your own time, during the 9-5 work week.

You will be expected to have read the assigned material for the lectures and the tests. Regular and on-time attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will negatively impact your final grade. If you miss a class it will be your responsibility to obtain the notes from another class member. I do not post my lecture notes on OAKS. I want and expect you to attend every class, take good notes and actively participate in class discussions. Taking accurate and thorough hand-written notes is a great way to retain and learn new lecture information.
In the past, students who seemed to perform best in this class told me that they would review the chapter in the textbook before the lecture and then after the lecture would read the chapter more closely while referring to their lecture notes. I offer this as a method that has been successful for other students. I recognize that this method takes time, but doing well in a class takes time!

The Center for Student Learning (CSL) offers academic support services for assistance in study strategies and a host of other areas. This is free help for students – so take advantage of what they have to offer. Their website is http://csl.cofc.edu and their phone number is (843) 953-5635. Their office is located on the 1st floor of the Addlestone Library.

Final grades will be based on class attendance and participation (15%), as well as written assignments and observation of at least two guilty plea court sessions (10%), and four in class tests (for a total of 75%). There are no scheduled make-up tests. 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 well 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 Totals:
Class attendance and participation 15%
Two guilty plea observations and write ups 10%
Four In Class tests – each at 18.75% totaling 75%

If you are a SNAP student, then please present me with your SNAP letter in the first days of class so we can make whatever accommodations necessary to help you succeed in this course.

Academic Integrity: As is true with all College of Charleston classes, you are obligated to do your own work and abide by the Student Honor Code. Don't cheat, don't plagiarize and you will be fine.

Grading Policy:
A 94-100 A- 90-93 B+ 87-89 B 83-86 B- 80-82 C+ 77-79
C 73-76 C- 70-72 D+ 67-69 D 63-66 D- 60-62 F below 60
Schedule for Criminal Justice – Fall 2019. This is subject to modification, as circumstances require.

Wed. 8/21  Introduction and start “Murder On A Sunday Morning”.
Mon. 8/26  Finish “Murder On A Sunday Morning”.
Wed. 8/28  Chapter 1.
Mon. 9/2   Chapter 2. ***** Attend Guilty Plea Court this week 100 Broad Street, 4D (4th Floor, Courtroom D). Monday, September 2 is Labor Day - a holiday for the courts. Therefore, there will be no court on Monday. Guilty Pleas will start on Tuesday and run through Thursday afternoon this week.
Wed. 9/4   Chapters 3 and 4
Mon. 9/9   TEST #1 Covering Chapters 1-4; then Chapter 5. Turn in written Guilty Plea Observation #1 at start of class. (Typed, no more than 2 pages. Your name on each page. Stapled. Not accepted by email.)
Wed. 9/11  Chapter 6.
Mon. 9/16  Chapter 7. Review Test #1 results.
Wed. 9/18  Chapter 8.
Mon 9/23  TEST #2 Covering Chapters 5-8. Then Bryan Stevenson Lecture
Wed. 9/25  Chapter 9.
Mon. 9/30  Chapter 10. Review Test #2 results.
Wed. 10/2  Start Chapter 14.
Mon. 10/7  Finish Chapter 14 and Start Chapter 15. .
Wed. 10/9  Finish Chapter 15.
Mon. 10/14 FALL BREAK – Don’t get arrested.
Wed. 10/16 Gun Lecture
Mon. 10/21 TEST #3 Covering Chapters 9,10,14 &15: then SENTENCING.
Wed. 10/23 Chapter 16.
Mon. 10/28 Chapter 17. Review Test #3 results.
Wed. 10/30 TBA
Mon. 11/4 Start “My Cousin Vinnie”
Wed. 11/6  Finish “My Cousin Vinnie”
Mon. 11/11 Chapter 18. **** Attend Guilty Plea Court this week 100 Broad Street, 4D
Wed. 11/13 Chapter 19.
Mon. 11/18 Chapter 20. Turn in Guilty Plea Observation #2 at start of class. (Typed, no more than 2 pages. Your name on each page. Stapled. Not accepted by email.)
Wed. 11/20 Test #4 Covering Chapters 16-20.
Mon. 11/25 Review Test #4 results.
Wed. 11/27 THANKSGIVING BREAK
Mon. 12/2  Review Grades.

*Attend Guilty Plea Court at 100 and Broad Street, Courtroom 4D (4th Floor, Courtroom D) Observe and take hand-written notes for no less than 1 hour.
On the weeks listed above - Guilty Pleas are typically held:
Monday afternoons;
Tuesday through Thursday mornings and afternoons;
Friday mornings;
Mornings start around 9:30AM and go to about noon.
Afternoons start around 1:45PM and end about 4:30 or 5PM.

Predicting exactly when Plea Court will start and end is like trying to predict the weather!
All I can tell you – it’s best to go early in the week and early in the day so you have a chance
to regroup and try again if for some reason court is not held.