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

LOCATION AND MEETING TIME: Maybank 307, 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 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
GRADING PROCEDURES

Grading Scale
1. Exam – 3 tests (65%)
2. Case Reviews (15%)
3. Documentary Write-up (10%)
3. 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).

- Week of February 11th
- Week of March 4th
- Week of March 11th

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

1/8 TRIAL

1/10 TRIAL

1/15 Who are the players in the courtroom? What are their duties?
1/17  Categorization of the law – *Mala in se, Mala prohibit*...Equation of a crime

1/22  Overview of the Trial Process and Basic Procedural Rules

1/24  Overview of the Trial Process and Basic Procedural Rules

1/29  Trial – Opening Statements and State’s Case in Chief

1/31  State’s Case in Chief and Strategy

2/5   **Test #1 on OAKS**

2/7   **Deliberation Paper Due** – Class Deliberation

2/12  Criminal Process – how did we get here? Basic overview – pleas, negotiations, arrest...

2/14  Plea Negotiations – Defense and Prosecutor Perspectives – what is justice?

2/19  The Arrest – Search and Seizure Part 1 – Procedural Law

2/21  The Arrest – Search and Seizure Part 2 – Procedural Law

2/26  **Murder on a Sunday Morning – in class + Case Review # 1 Due**

2/28  **Murder on Sunday Morning reflection paper due** - Arrest – Interrogation, ID Procedures, Statements

3/5   **Test # 2 on OAKS**

3/7   Elements and Parties of a Crime. Inchoate Offenses.

3/12  Property Crimes and Vice Crimes. **The House I Live In documentary**

3/14  **The House I Live In Discussion.** Intro into Homicidal Offenses and Other Offenses Against Persons.

3/17-3/23  **SPRING BREAK**

3/26  Homicidal Offenses and Other Offenses Against Persons.

3/28  Cont’d Homicidal Offenses and Other Offenses Against Persons.

4/2   Criminal Defenses.

4/4   **Test #3 on OAKS**
4/9  Guest lecture: victim advocates and social workers

4/11  Case Review #2 presented in class – defense and prosecution

4/16  Charges and Plea negotiations

4/18  Opening Statements

4/23  Direct Examination and Cross Examination

4/30  Case Review #2 Due