This is a survey course covering the American criminal justice system. A goal will be to teach students how to analyze a criminal case. Students will learn the elements of criminal charges and the process by which a case moves from arrest to final disposition. Students will learn about the importance of the attorney’s interview with the client, ethical considerations of the attorney-client relationship, bond settings, preliminary hearings, and investigation conducted on behalf of the client. The wide array of possible final dispositions of a case will be covered including: dismissal, pre-trial intervention, drug and mental health courts, guilty pleas and trials.

Outside reading will be assigned in addition to your textbook Criminal Law and Procedure, Scheb & Scheb, 7th Edition.

Regular attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will negatively impact the final grade. Please try your best to be on time for class.

Grading will be based on class participation (20%), written assignment (20%) and three tests (60%). I do not anticipate offering make up tests. If you are aware of an issue – certainly bring it to my attention – the earlier, the better.

Grading Policy:
A 94-100  A- 90-93.99  B+ 87-89.99  B 83-86.99  B- 80-82.99
D- 60-62.99  F Below 60

Special Circumstances: If there are any special circumstances that I should be aware of – please let me know. If you have any issues that will hinder your ability to complete the course work or tests or limit your potential for academic success in any way, please let me know. Anything you tell me will of course be kept in confidence.
January 10       Introduction
Week of 1/14     Murder on a Sunday Afternoon & Discussion
Week of 1/21     Chapters 1 & 2
Week of 1/28     Chapters 3 & 4
Week of 2/4      Chapters 5 & 6
Week of 2/11     Chapter 7
Week of 2/18     Chapter 8
Week of 2/25     Chapters 9 & 10
Week of 3/4      Spring Break – Don’t Commit a Crime
Week of 3/11     Chapter 14
Week of 3/18     Chapter 15
Week of 3/25     Chapter 16
Week of 4/1      Chapter 17 & 18
Week of 4/8      TBD
Week of 4/15     Chapter 19 & 20
Week of 4/22     TBD