

---

**POLI 203: CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
FALL 2017**

---

PROFESSOR: Alex Ginsburg, 101 Meeting St. 843-810-6684 (cell),  
alexjginsburg@gmail.com

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**

This book is available at the University bookstore.

- Scheb & Scheb, Criminal Law and Procedure

In addition, there will be other required readings that will be provided to you.

### **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 be 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 – 4 tests (65%)
2. Courtroom Observations (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 be penalized 5 points per day. In addition, 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

8/22 Introduction and Chapter 1.

8/24 Chapter 2.

8/29 Chapters 3 and 4.

8/31 **TEST # 1 Covering Chapters 1-4. Lecture on 5.**

9/5 Chapter 6.

9/7 Chapter 7. (Prepare to attend guilty plea court the following week).

9/12 Chapter 8. **Attend Guilty Plea Court (100 Broad St, Courtroom 4D)**

9/14 Vicarious trauma (*will hand out reading in 9/12 class*). **Interacting with victims and defendants – Guest lecture (Victim Advocates and Social workers)**

9/19 Chapter 10.

9/21 **TEST # 2 Covering Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10. Start Documentary “The House I Live In”**

9/26 Finish Documentary “The House I Live in” and Discussion. **Guilty plea write up due.**

9/28 Chapter 14.

10/3 Finish Chapter 14.

10/5 Chapter 15.

10/10 Finish Chapter 15. **“House I Live in” write up due.**

10/12 Chapter 16.

10/17 **FALL BREAK. NO CLASS.**

10/19 **TEST # 3. Covering Chapters 14, 15, and 16.**

10/24 Chapter 17. Case Review.

10/26 Case review.

10/31 Case review discussion. Chapter 18.

11/2 Finish Chapter 18.

11/7 “My Cousin Vinny” and Discussion.

11/9 Finish “My Cousin Vinny” and Discussion.

11/14 Chapter 19. **Attend guilty plea court.**

11/16 **GUEST LECTURE. (ASOL, PD, Judges, Paralegals)**

11/21 **TEST #4. Covering Chapters 17, 18, 19, My Cousin Vinny, and Guest lecture topics.**

11/23 **THANKSGIVING BREAK. NO CLASS.**

11/28 Final discussion. **Guilty plea write ups due.**

11/30 TBA

12/4 LAST DAY OF CLASS.