

Instructor: Scott Tsui  
Office: Room 527  
Telephone: (408) 792-2804  
Office Hours: Fridays 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
and by appointment

AJ103  
Courts and Society  
Fall 2000

### COURSE DESCRIPTOIN

This course analyzes the American court system with an emphasis on the criminal justice system. We will study the criminal justice system by discussing areas such as, its basic procedural structures, and the roles of those who work in, or are affected by, the system. Additionally, we will discuss some of the major substantive rules governing the rights of criminal defendants, and the goals and guidelines of sentencing. Finally, throughout this course, we will examine the professional responsibilities of those who administer the criminal justice system, and the system's effectiveness in our society.

### MATERIAL

American Courts and the Criminal Justice System (6<sup>th</sup> edition). David W. Neubauer, and accompanying CD and infotrac material.

### GRADING

Grading will be based on the following criteria:

- 1) Midterm examination (20%)  
There will be a midterm examination encompassing both short answers and essay questions derived from the text, lectures, and other class material approximately halfway through the course.
- 2) Final examinations (30%)  
There will be a comprehensive final examination encompassing both short answers and essay questions derived from the text, lectures, and other class material.
- 3) Final Paper (30%)  
Students will be expected to complete a term paper of approximately ten pages on one of the major topics (death penalty, three strikes law, jury system, and juvenile sentencing) which will be discussed throughout the course. The text and lectures should be a starting point for these papers. Outside research will be required. Students are encouraged to discuss their topics and approaches with the instructor during office hours.

Plagiarism or other forms of cheating will result in an automatic "F" in the course. The use of "I" and "U" will be used strictly in compliance with university policy. Incompletes must be arranged prior to the final exam and only will be offered to

students who have completed the class requirements prior to the date of the final exam.

4) Projects and Class Participation (20%)

Students will be expected to observe a ½ day session of a criminal trial or criminal sentencing and will be required to document each on a form that will be provided.

A CD-ROM with sentencing exercises is included with your text. These brief exercises will be due and discussed in class as indicated on the attached schedule.

Finally, attendance and class participation will be incorporated in this portion of the grading. Regular attendance and participation is expected and encouraged, both to assist you in developing your skills in articulating and supporting a position and to assist your classmates in developing their listening and evaluation skills.

Scoring

Grades will be determined according to the following scale:

A = 93-100	C = 73-76
A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	F = 0-59

## SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Assignment</u>
8/28	Introduction and Chapter 1: Courts, Crime, and Controversy
8/30	Chapter 2: Law and Crime
9/4	No Class (Labor Day)
9/6	Chapter 3: Federal Courts
9/11	Chapter 4: State Courts
9/13	Chapter 5: The Dynamics of Courthouse Justice
9/18	Chapter 6: Prosecutors
9/20	Mckay sentencing exercise discussion
9/25	Chapter 7: Defense Attorney
9/27	Chapter 8: Judges
10/2	Malloy sentencing exercise discussion
10/4	Chapter 9: Defendant and Victims
10/9	Hart sentencing exercise discussion
10/11	Midterm review
10/16	<b>Midterm examination</b>
10/18	Chapter 10: Arrest to Arraignment
10/23	Jameson sentencing exercise discussion
10/25	Chapter 11: Bail
10/30	Chapter 12: Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence
11/1	Chapter 13: Negotiated Justice and the Plea of Guilty
11/6	Movie: "The Thin Blue Line"
11/8	Movie: "The Thin Blue Line" and discussion

11/13	Chapter 14: Trials and Juries
11/15	Chapter 15: Sentencing Options
11/20	Caneelly sentencing exercise discussion
11/22	Chapter 16: Sentencing Decisions
11/27	McNutt sentencing exercise discussion
11/29	Chapter 17: Appellate Courts
12/4	Chapter 18: The Lower Courts
12/6	Chapter 19: Juvenile Courts
12/11	Final examination review and <b>term paper due</b>
12/15	<b>Final examination: 7:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.</b>