

**COURTS AND SOCIETY
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 103**

Fall, 2001

Thursday, 5:30 - 8:15 P.M. in MH 523

Lecturer: Dan Peak Office Hours: Thursdays 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. & 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.,
Phone: (408)398-2070 and Tuesday 8:00 – 8:30 a.m., or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes the student on a figurative and actual tour of the criminal justice system in action. It will examine the courts from the perspective of the criminal defendants, victims of crime, actual and potential, witnesses and law enforcement personnel, the attorneys, both prosecution and defense, court support personnel, jurors and judges. There will be an examination of the historical background of courts with emphasis on several history making cases which helped to produce the present day criminal justice system. The roles of the various actors in the court system will be examined through the basic steps of the criminal case. These steps include, arrest, booking, charging, arraignment, pretrial motions, trial, sentencing and appeal. Two primary diversions from the mainstream criminal court system will be considered: the juvenile courts and the new trend to drug courts. This course covers courts throughout the United States, but emphasis will be given to the California courts to facilitate understanding.

GRADING

Student's mastery of the material will be evaluated through observation of the student's class participation and execution of assignments in addition to the student's performance on a final examination. The assignments will include a short paper detailing observations made during a minimum of six hours of courtroom observations. The papers should be about five pages, typed. More specific requirements will be provided at a later date. Class participation will include presentation of the courtroom observation paper in class.

In addition to the above, there will be short, unannounced writing assignments in class related to the reading for that week. These are commonly called "pop" quizzes.

REQUIRED READING

Required text: David W. Neubauer, America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System (7th ed. 2001) published by Thomson Learning.

Other reading may be required as the course proceeds.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES

DATE	SUBJECT MATTER	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
8/30	Introductions and description of course. Overview of the legal system.	In class interview assignment Peruse Chapters 1 & 2, ACCJS
9/6	The law, common and otherwise. The American courts federal and state. Discussion of paper on court observation.	Review Chapter 2 Read Chapters 3 & 4, ACCJS
9/13	Beginning the prosecution: Charging, Arrest and Arraignment.	Read Chapters 6, 10 & 11
9/20	Defendant, victims and defense counsel roles.	Read Chapters 5, 7 & 9
9/27	Beginning the trial process: Negotiating a plea.	Read Chapters 13 & 15
10/4	Continuing plea negotiations.	Review Chapter 13 Read Chapter 16