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## JS 10 Introduction to Justice Studies

### Course Description

The class is structured around the historical and development of administration of justice and the relationship between theory and practice. Course content centers on the description, analysis, evaluation, and policy implications relating to the justice system and related agencies.

### Course Objectives

1. To provide an introduction to the characteristics, structure, and processes of the system in the United States.
2. To explain criminology, criminal law, criminal statistics, and constitutional criminal procedure as they relate to the justice system.
3. To describe and discuss the purpose, functions, critical issues, and societal interactions of the three major components of the justice system: police, courts, and corrections.

### Texts

J. Senna and L. Siegel, *Essentials of Criminal Justice*, 4th ed., West/Wadsworth, 2003.

*Study Guide to Essentials*, 4th ed., West/Wadsworth, 2003.

### Evaluation

Two major examinations covering approximately one-half of the text and lecture materials will be given; text-lecture breakdown will be about 60%-40%. The midterm will make up 45% of the final grade and the final exam will make up 55% of the final grade.

The Study Guide is considered to be an important instructional tool in this class; consequently, 10% to 15% of the test questions will be taken **directly** from this source. Thus, an appropriate amount of time should be spent with the study guide in preparing for exams.

Each exam will count for one-half of the course grade. The final grade will be determined by a class curve, based on a two-exam average. The final exam will be given during the designated final exam time (consult class schedule). Note that exams **may not be taken 10 minutes after an exam has started**; the exam will be re-scheduled as a make-up to be taken directly following the final exam. Please be on time!

## Class Policies

- \* *Improvement* and class *participation* WILL be used to improve one's final grade.
- \* *Make-up exams* are given only for *excused absences* (e.g., instructor notified ahead of time) which are *documented* (e.g., a Doctor's note); "I overslept" or "forgot what day it was" are **not** excused absences.
- \* You must also obtain *written permission from the instructor* in order to take a make-up exam.
- \* A make-up exam for the mid-term will be given *directly following* the final exam, during the scheduled final exam time. Please note that there will be no make-up for the final exam until the *following semester*.
- \* *Cheating* on exams will constitute an F grade in the *course*. This is a department policy.
- \* Use of class drops, "I" and "W" grades will adhere strictly to University policy (see class schedule).
- \* *Class etiquette* suggests respect for other students and Professors during class time, especially with respect to "chatting," eating, reading (please do these outside of class), and late entrance (please come in the back). Also, please turn cell phones OFF when in class.

## Course Content

	<u>Text Material</u>	<u>Lecture Material</u>
Mid-Term	Senna/Siegel: Chaps. 1 through 7 Study Guide-Same chapters	Sections I-III
Final	Senna/Siegel: Chaps. 8 through 15 Study Guide-Same chapters  Study Guide-Same chapters	Sections IV-VII

## Course Outline

## SECTION I – CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE UNITED STATES

- A. Process of Criminal Justice in U.S.
- B. What is Law/Justice/ Freedom?
- C. What is Crime?

## SECTION II- THE POLICE

- A. English Precedents
- B. American Policing
- C. Problem Oriented/Community Policing

## SECTION III – POLICING ISSUES & CRIME TRENDS

- A. Police Use of Force/Misconduct (Film)
- B. Measuring Crime
- C. Crime Trends

## SECTION IV – CRIMINAL LAW & THE CONSTITUTION

- A.. Basic Elements of Crime/Crime Classifications
- B. The Bill of Rights (esp. 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8)
- C. Major Landmark Decisions (Handout)

## SECTION V – THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- A. From Incident to Arraignment (Handout)
- B. From Trial of Judgment (Film)
- C. Appeal Process

## SECTION VI – THE COURTS

- A. Structure and Role of the Federal Courts
- B. Structure and Role of State/Local Courts
- C. Sentencing Structures

## SECTION VII – CORRECTIONS

- A. Juvenile Justice/Critical Cases
- B. Models of Incarceration
- C. Contemporary Issues