

Spring 2004

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 103 COURTS AND SOCIETY

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Office Hours: Monday 4:00-5:15 p.m. or by appointment

This course will study the relationship between the American Justice System and the people that it serves. The first part of the course will focus on parties to legal actions, professionals involved in criminal justice, and individuals impacted by the court system. The second part of the class will examine court practices and procedures. The third part of the class will focus on the role of the legislature and the media on court process. The final portion of the class will deal with contemporary issues within the justice system in the context of actual and perceived fairness. Throughout the course, discussions of the evolution of the system and proposals for improvements will be encouraged. In order to illustrate practical issues in an academic setting, a variety of guest speakers will present their views of the system invited to address the class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to participating in the class discussions and activities, you are required to: 1) Complete the required readings prior to the class for which they are assigned. 2) Read and assimilate in-class handouts. 3) Turn in a typed, 10-page paper that will critically analyze a topical issue within the justice system. 4) Take 3 in-class exams (2 midterms and a final) that will cover the readings and lecture materials.

REQUIRED TEXT:

DAVID NEUBAUER, *AMERICA'S COURTS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM*, (2001)
Wadsworth Publishing. Available at Spartan and Roberts Bookstores

In addition, there will be handouts distributed during class on a regular basis. It is the responsibility of each student to collect and review each handout thoroughly as they will be subject to inclusion on any and all exams.

GRADING, MISSED EXAM & LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY:

Only legitimately excused missed exams, tests, and assignments may be made up. Only under extreme and unavoidable emergency circumstances will you be able to make up an exam for a legitimate excuse if you have not given notice of your absence before the actual scheduled exam period. Any failure to take a test not excused within this standard will result in a score of zero. There are no excuses for failing to submit a paper. The assignment deadlines are firm deadlines. Each day (including weekends) that your assignment is late will result in a 5-point deduction from your grade for that assignment.

Again, only legitimate excuses will be accepted to avoid the late penalty. Computer/printer breakdowns are generally NOT legitimate excuses. Your final grade for the course will be based upon your performances on the midterms, the paper, class participation, and the final as follows:

Midterm I:	300 points maximum
Midterm II:	300 points maximum
Final:	400 points maximum
Paper:	300 points maximum
Class Participation	additional 30 points maximum

Total Possible: 1030 points
(based upon the better of the two midterm scores with class participation calculated as extra credit under unusual circumstances only)

A range = 900-1030 points
B range = 800 – 899 points
C range = 700 – 799 points
D range = 600 – 699 points
F range = 599 points or below

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS*/ASSIGNMENTS/DUE DATES:

PART ONE:

- Week 1 (February 2): Overview of course and Introduction of theories of Criminal Liability – Principals, Aiders & Abettors, Accessories
– Handouts only
- Week 2 (February 9): Theories of Liability Cont'd – Conspiracy, Gangsters, Hate Crimes
– Handouts only
- Week 3 (February 16): Actors (Part I) Read: Textbook, chapters 1, 2 & 5
- Week 4 (February 23): Actors (Part II) Read: Textbook, chapters 6 & 7
- Week 5 (March 1): Actors (Part III) Read: Textbook, chapters 8 & 9
- Week 6 (March 8): Guest Speaker/Mid-term I
- Week 7 (March 15): Criminal Procedure: From Arrest to Charging
Read: Textbook, chapters 10 & 11

Week 8 (March 22): Criminal Procedure: Cont'd – Analyzing the Case
– Handouts Only

Week 9 (March 29): SPRING BREAK !!

Week 10 (April 5): Plea Bargaining and Sentencing
Read: Textbook, chapters 13, 15 & 16

Week 11 (April 12): Guest Speaker/Mid-term II

Week 12 (April 19): The Show/Trials, Juries, Ethics, Outcomes
Read: Textbook, chapter 14

Week 13 (April 26): Writs & Appeals and Juvenile (Part I)
Read: Textbook, chapter 17

Week 14 (May 3): Juvenile (Part II)
– Handouts Only

Week 15 (May 10): Media, Politics & Legislation
– Handouts Only

Week 16 (May 17): What About Us?/Alternative Dispute Resolution, Civil Law, Family
Law, Specialized Courts/FINAL REVIEW
– No Reading

*Topics subject to change based upon availability of guest speakers.