

**Professor: Richard Perry**

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**Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 to 10:30 and 1:30 to 2:30; Thursdays 10:00 to 10:30 and 1:30 to 5:00**

**Catalog Course Description:**

Structure and functions of the court system. Emphasis on roles of prosecutor, defense attorney, judge, jurors, and witnesses. Dynamics of the court process. Examination of current legislation and Supreme Court decisions.

**Course Prerequisites:** Upper division status, JS 10 and JS 14.

**Course Requirements:**

Required Texts: David W. Neubauer, **American Courts and the Criminal Justice System**, 8th edition (2004), available at the campus bookstore, with further supplementary handouts and readings on e-reserve as assigned by topic. A copy of the textbook is on reserve in the MLK Library.

Reading Assignments: Students shall complete all reading assignments before the class in which they are to be discussed. All class discussions and subsequent tests will be based on these readings.

Testing and Evaluation: There will be two in-class midterm examinations and a final examination at the last class meeting. There is also a requirement of at least four hours of court observations and a 4~~0~~ page descriptive paper to be submitted at the fourteenth week. Individual class participation and general preparedness for class discussion is required, and will be evaluated by the professor at the end of the course. The two in-class mid-terms will each count for 20% of the course grade, the observation paper will count for 20%, class participation will count for 10%, and the final exam will count for 30%. The professor reserves the right to administer additional unannounced quizzes if this appears necessary to encourage students to come to class prepared.

Courthouse Tour: The instructor of another section of JS 103, JS Faculty member Daniel Peak has suggested that his section and ours have a tour of the Santa Clara County Courthouse – Mr. Peak has years of familiarity with this court. The date has yet to be determined.

Other: All regulations in the current SJSU Catalog will be followed in regard to Add/Drop policies, Incomplete grades, and all questions of plagiarism and other issues of academic conduct. Those who desire disability-related accommodation should speak to the instructor at the beginning of the term. Emergency evacuation routes and procedures are posted adjacent to the classroom.

**Schedule of Reading Assignments:**

August 25: Introductions; explanation of course structure and requirements. Introduction to textbook and on-line resources.

August 30: Neubauer – Preface and Chapter 1: Courts, Crime, and Controversy; the “fragmented non-system” of justice; the court and its actors; law on the books and law in action.

September 1: Chapter 1 continued; audiovisual media on court proceedings and principles of legality, due