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NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.


COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an introduction to the criminal justice system, including its basic component parts: policing, the courts system, and corrections. The primary goal of this course is to develop a general understanding of the criminal justice system, and its response to crime in American society. It is important to note that the general theme of the course addresses the establishment of, and the adaptation to, the ever-changing balance between the expectations of the community, in terms of safety, and the rights of the individual, in terms of civil liberties. It is the mandate of the criminal justice system to address this balancing act. We will take a look at how well it succeeds, or not.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

If all goes well, at the completion of this course, you will be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Define and explain the component parts of the American Criminal Justice system.
2. Articulate the reasons for public concern about crime in the U.S.
3. Define and discuss criminal behavior.
4. Discuss the role of the Constitution in defining individual rights.
5. Discuss the nature and purpose of law in our society.
6. Define categories, features, and elements of the major crimes.
7. Understand major defenses to crimes.
8. Discuss the role of the police in maintaining a safe, but free, society.
9. Define the justifiable use of force in policing.
10. Understand the criminal trial process, and the role of the main participants in a trial.
11. Distinguish between parole and probation, as well the philosophical underpinnings of each.
12. Discuss prison culture.
13. Discuss determinate and indeterminate sentencing and the social implications of each.

Instructional Methods

This course will utilize various methods of instruction, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Class lecture
2. Class discussions and presentations
3. Internet and web assignments
4. Video presentations
5. Guest speakers

Evaluation of Student Outcomes

Grading or assessment of students’ efforts will be based on the following:

1. Mid-term Examination 25%,
2. Final Examination 25%
3. Papers/Written Assignments, 40%
4. Attendance, class participation, 10%

Assessment Criteria:

Exams will be assessed on the following criteria: Evidence of thoughtful synthesis of the materials presented; inclusion of terminology used throughout the course, as well demonstrating appropriate understanding of the meaning and significance of the terms; inclusion of material from the reading assignments; and proper essay form. This means writing in complete sentences with proper punctuation.
Written work will be assessed on the following criteria:
Original and critical thinking about the subject matter;
evidence of appropriate research, including the use of
diverse sources; presenting and defending a chosen thesis
or position; proper citation methods, where appropriate;
and proper use of the King’s English. This means proper
grammar, sentence and paragraph construction,
organization and format. I encourage you to proof-read
your papers before submitting them. Obvious grammatical
errors make a poor first impression on the reader.

Class participation will be assessed on the following
criteria: Your participation in class should be
meaningful to the discussion, demonstrating that you have
actually read and given thought to the assigned material. It
should also demonstrate engagement in the discussion.
Comments that reveal that you have read the assignment,
that show engagement, that invite deeper discussion or
move the discussion in meaningful directions will enhance
this grade. Evidence that you did not come to class
prepared will diminish this grade. Pretty straight-forward.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance You should plan to come to class on a regular basis.
It’s part of your college experience. It is also a huge
waste of somebody’s money if you skip classes. IN
ADDITION, WHEN YOU MISS A CLASS YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ASSIGNED WORK. IT IS NO EXCUSE THAT YOU WERE NOT PRESENT WHEN THE WORK WAS ASSIGNED. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND OUT. If you cannot find out from a classmate, call or email me. But, one way or another, FIND OUT!

Lateness Try not to be late to class. Plan ahead.

Participation A portion of your grade will be based on
classroom participation. Read the assigned material
ahead of time. This is not a new concept. Come to class
prepared to share your thoughts. Part of your college
experience is to interact intellectually with those around
you. Don’t short-change your classmates by remaining silent.

**Missed Assignments**

Late assignments are not accepted without penalty. If you know you will miss a class where an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to hand it in ahead of time. **NOTE: YOUR GRADE WILL BE AFFECTED (NOT IN A GOOD WAY) FOR EACH CLASS DAY THAT AN ASSIGNMENT REMAINS LATE.** To avoid all this unpleasantness, just hand your work in on time. (Out in the real world, bosses don’t generally take kindly to late work. Get into good habits now.)

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Unless assignments are identified as group exercises, students are expected to produce independent, original work in order to receive credit. Students who share work or plagiarize from published works (including the Internet) will, at the very least, receive zero credit for that assignment. More serious violations of academic integrity will likely result in your being asked to continue your college education elsewhere. **DON’T DO IT!** If you use the words or ideas of others, use quotation marks, and include text citations and/or footnotes. If you are unsure about correct citation, see me. **THIS IS ALSO YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!**

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Northeastern University is committed to making reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. For more information, consult with the NU Disability Resource Center, or go online to http://www.drc.neu.edu. If you wish to discuss accommodations for this class with me, please see me as soon as possible.
COURSE OUTLINE

During the course of the semester you will assigned a series of four (4) “Position Papers” or written responses to issues of concern to students of the Criminal Justice system. These papers will be relatively short, 2-3 pages in length, but require a certain amount of creative thinking on your part. The specific subjects for these papers are outlined below. More later.

The key website:  http://wps.prenhall.com/chet_schmalleger_cjbright_7

Mon. Jan 11 -  Introduction to Course; review of syllabus; expectations, etc.

   For the next time (FTNT):
   Required Reading (RR): Schmalleger, Chapter 1 – What is Criminal Justice?

Wed. Jan 13 - Schmalleger,Ch. 1, What is Criminal Justice? Theme of Book; A Brief History of Crime in America; Due Process and Individual Rights.

   FTNT:
   RR: Text, Ch 2 – The Crime Picture
   SR: Library Extra 2-1, “Why is Crime Falling – Or is it?”

Thurs. Jan 14 – Ch. 2 – The Crime Picture. Crime data and social policy; collection of data; UCR/NIBRS; Victim Surveys (NCVS)

   FTNT:
   RR: Text, Ch 3, Criminal Law

Mon. Jan 18 – NO CLASS – MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Wed. Jan 20 – Ch 3 – Criminal Law. The Nature and Purpose of Law; the Rule of Law; Types of Law; General Categories of Law.

   FTNT:
   RR: Text, Ch 3 (cont’d) – Criminal Law
Thurs. Jan. 21 – Ch 3 – Criminal Law. The Guilty Mind, the Criminal Act, and Concurrence; the Corpus Delicti; Elements of a Specific Offense.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 3 (cont’d) – Defenses to Crimes

Note: Position Paper #1 is due Wed. January 27 in class or in my mailbox beforehand. The topic is “What is the Rule of Law? What is its purpose in Western democracies? What does it mean to say that “nobody is above the law?” In what countries is the Rule of Man, rather than the Rule of Law, evident?

Mon. Jan. 25 – Types of Defenses to Crime

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 3 (finish) – Defenses to Crime

Wed. Jan. 27 (Position Paper #1 due in class) Ch 3 – Criminal Law - Insanity and Procedural Defenses

FTNT:
Review Chapters 1-3. Take a look at Chapter T/F and M/C Questions on the website.

Thurs. Jan. 28 – Review of Chapters 1-3; Questions, Comments, and Discussion.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 4 – Policing: Purpose and Organization
SR: Library Extra 4-1, “How Police Supervisory Style Influences Police Officer Behavior.” (DOJ)

Mon. Feb 1 – Ch 4 – Police Purpose and Organization, Mission; Enforcement; Apprehension; Crime Prevention; Services Provided.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 4 (cont’d) – Police/Community Relations
SR: Library Extra 4-7, “Public Involvement: Community Policing in Chicago.” (NIJ)
Wed. Feb 3 – Policing/Community Policing/Team Policing/ Evidence-based Policing/ The KC Experiment

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 5 – Policing – Legal Aspects
SR: Library Extra 5-3, “Mapp v. Ohio.”

Thurs. Feb. 4 – Ch 5 – Legal Aspects of Policing; Abuse of Power; Individual Rights; Search and Seizure

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 5 (cont’d) Legal Aspects of Policing
SR: Library Extra 5-8, “H.R. 3162 – The Patriot Act

Mon. Feb 8 - Legal Aspects of Policing; Arrest; Search Incident to Arrest; Emergency Searches; Suspicionless Searches; Intelligence Function.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 6 – Policing – Issues and Challenges
SR - Library Extra 6-2, “Enhancing Police Integrity.”

Note: Position Paper #2 is due Thurs. Feb 11. The topic deals with police corruption. Given that this is a seminal issue in policing, “What innovative steps might be taken by police departments to eliminate or at least reduce corruption among its officers?” Due in class or beforehand.

Wed. Feb 10 – Policing – Issues and Challenges; Police Personality and Culture; Corruption and Integrity; Ethics and Professionalism

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 6 (cont’d)
SR: Library Extra 6-5, “On the Job Stress in Policing: Reducing It; Preventing It.” (NIJ)

Thurs. Feb 11 (PP#2 due.) Policing – Issues and Challenges; Dangers of Police Work; Violence in the Line of Duty; Police Civil Liability; Impact of 9/11; Behavioral Profiling

FTNT:
RR: Text,Ch 6 – Policing – Use of Force
Library Extra 6-14, “Understanding the Use of Force by and Against Police.”


Mon. Feb 15 – NO CLASS – PRESIDENT’S DAY

Wed. Feb 17 - Policing – Issues and Challenges: Use of Force; Deadly Force; Less-Than-Lethal Force; Ethics and Gender Diversity; Private Protection Services

FTNT: Review of Chapters 4-6.

Note: Mid-Term Exam is on Wed, October 19, in class.

Thurs. Feb 18 – Review of Chapters 4-6. Questions, Comments, and Discussion.

FTNT: (Mid Term Exam on Mon. Feb 22)
RR: Text, Ch 7, Adjudication: The Court System

Mon. Feb 22– MID TERM EXAMINATION, IN CLASS


FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 7 (cont’d) Pre-Trial Activities
SR: Library Extra 7-7, “Pre-Trial Service Programs, Responsibility and Potential.”

Thurs. Feb 25 - The Courts – Pre-Trial Activities; Grand Jury; Preliminary Hearing; Arraignment and Plea

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 8 – The Courtroom Workgroup (Insiders)
Mon. Feb 29 – The Courts – Courtroom Workgroup; Insiders; Judge, P.A., Defense Counsel; Bailiff; Trial Court Administrator; Court Reporter; Clerk of Court; Expert Witnesses.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 8 – Courtroom Workgroup (Outsiders).
SR: Library Extra 8-7, “Cameras in the Courts Trends in 2003; Defining the Media; New Personal Technology and Court Rules.”

Wed. Mar 2 – The Courtroom Workgroup; Outsiders; Lay Witnesses; Jurors; Victim; Defendant; Steps in a Criminal Trial, from Jury Selection to Verdict.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 9 – Sentencing

Thurs. Mar 3 – The Courts – Sentencing; Philosophy and Goals; Retribution; Deterrence; Incapacitation; Rehabilitation; Restoration.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 9 (cont’d) – Innovative Sentencing

SPRING BREAK – SAT MARCH 5 – SUN MAR 13

Mon. Mar 14 – Types of Sentencing: Indeterminate; Determinate; Structured; Innovations in Sentencing; Pre-Sentence Investigation; The Victim – Forgotten No Longer.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 9 (cont’d) The Death Penalty, the Ultimate Sanction.

Reminder: Your Position Paper #3 is due Wed. Mar 23, in class. The topic is the Death Penalty, and you need to briefly discuss the pros and cons of this important issue. Time permitting, we will engage in a modest debate during one of our last classes this semester. This exercise will provide a certain amount of background
for such debate. Basically, the question you will address in your admittedly-too-short-paper is “The Death Penalty: Do we need it? Why or why not?” Briefly summarize the arguments in favor of capital punishment, and then summarize those against it. In your final paragraphs you should take a stand. I’m more interested in your reasoning than your conclusion.

Wed. Mar 16 – Sentencing; Modern Sentencing Options; Death Penalty; Habeas Corpus; Economic Impact of Capital Punishment.

FTNT: Review of Chapters 7-9

Thurs. Mar 17 - Review of Chapters 7-9. Questions, Comments, and Discussion

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 10 – Corrections; Probation and Parole
SR: Library Extra 10-1, “Correctional Populations in the U.S.”

Mon. Mar 21 – Corrections; Philosophy of Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections; Defining Probation and Parole; Pluses and Minuses.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 10 (cont’d) – Intermediate Sanctions
SR: Library Extra 10-4, “Charting the Safe and Successful Return of Prisoners to the Community.”


FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 11 – Prisons and Jails
SR: Library Extra 11-6, “A Second Look at Alleviating Jail Crowding.”

Thurs. Mar 24 - Corrections; Prisons and Jails; Introduction; Philosophy; Overcrowding; Security Levels.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 11 (cont’d) – Prisons and Jails
SR: Library Extra 12-9, “Medical Problems of Inmates.”

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 12 – Prison Life

Wed. Mar 30 - Corrections – Prison Life; Prison Culture; Male/Female Inmate World; The Prison Staff’s World.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 12 (cont’d) Prison Life

Thurs Mar 31 - Corrections – Prison Life; Riots; Inmates' Rights; Impact of Terrorism on the Correctional World.

Mon. Apr 4 - Review Chs 10-12. Questions, Comments, and Discussion.

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 13 – Juvenile Justice

Wed. Apr 6 – Juvenile Justice - Introduction

FTNT:
RR: Text, Ch 13 – Juvenile Justice

Thurs. Apr 7 - Juvenile Justice; Introduction; Juvenile Justice Throughout History; The Legal Environment; Juvenile v. Adult Courts?

FTNT: (No class Nov 26, 27 – Thanksgiving Break)
RR: Text, Ch 13 (cont’d) - Juvenile Justice
Mon. Apr 11 - Juvenile Justice; The Future?
Review of Ch 13; Questions, Comments, and Discussion

FTNT:
Reminder: Position Paper #4 due Wed Apr 20. The topic: “Briefly discuss at least three major concerns facing prisons today. What issues have become problematical for prison administration? Speculate as to how these issues might be addressed, and further, what new issues or concerns might arise in the future?”

FTNT: Death Penalty Discussion?

Wed. Apr 13 - TBD

Thurs. Apr 14 - TBD

Mon. Apr 18 – TBD

Wed. Apr 20 - Last day of class. Position Paper #4 due in class.
Death Penalty Discussion? TBD

FINAL EXAM: TBD.