

THE LEGAL SYSTEM
SOCIOLOGY 216 PM

Instructor: **District Attorney John M. Morganelli**

Office hours: to be announced

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OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this class is to introduce the student to the language, theory and practice of the law with a particular emphasis on the American Legal System and to stimulate an interest in the law. A secondary purpose is to initiate discussion and thinking about important topics of the day related to the law and the legal system in general. The course will explore both the civil and criminal justice systems. Specific topics will include constitutional law; court procedures; criminal law and procedures; torts; and family law. Social and political effects of the legal system will be emphasized.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

All students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussion. Failure to attend class on three (3) or more occasions for any purpose automatically disqualifies the student from the possibility of receiving the highest participation grade.

WITHDRAWAL AND PLAGIARISM:

The rules of the college as they apply to withdrawal from the course and plagiarism will be strictly followed. Students are encouraged to consult the college handbook for the details of these policies.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Three (3) exams will be given. The first two exams are non-cumulative. The final exam will be cumulative. In addition to the exams, each class member will be asked to research, prepare and present a paper for presentation and discussion. Grades will be based on exams, the individual paper/presentation and general class participation as follows:

first exam – 20%;
second exam – 20%;
final exam – 25%;
individual project/presentation - 20%;
general class participation – 15%.

Make-up exams will not be given unless the student can prove serious illness resulting in hospitalization or death in their immediate family. The burden of proof is on the student to demonstrate the above. Minor illnesses, fatigue, vacation plans, death of pets and distant relatives are not excuses unless the Dean of the college permits excusal for these reasons.

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:

The following book is required and is available for purchase at the Moravian College Book Store:

Understanding the Law by Carper & West

In addition, the instructor may hand out supplemental reading material as the course topics dictate.