

SOCIOLOGY 318 - CRIMINAL LAW AND SOCIETY

Spring Term 2009

January 19, 2009 - May 6, 2009

Course Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Hon. Emil Giordano
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TEXT: Criminal Law & Procedure, Sixth Edition.
By: John M. Scheb and John M. Scheb, II, Authors. Thomson Wadsworth,
Publisher.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will serve as an introduction to evolutionary substantive and procedural criminal law and its impact on society. Causes of crime, nature of criminal acts, elements of crimes, defenses, excuses and justifications for crimes. Topics include crimes against persons, property, moral order, "victimless" crimes, admissibility of evidence, constitutional guarantees.

GOALS OF THIS COURSE:

- To provide students with an overview of the criminal law and criminal justice system, the origins and sources of the criminal law, and the roles of key agencies.
- To provide students with an insight as to the relevance of the U.S. Constitution and the State Constitution.
- To examine law enforcement and criminal procedure.
- To show how procedures are being regulated by federal and state statutes, court rules, or judicial decisions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to be prepared for each class. Inadequate preparation may result in the lowering of the grade for the course!

Testing counts for 50% of the final grade. Each test will be equally weighted.

There will be no unannounced tests. Considerable notice will be given for the date of each of the tests addressed above.

Class attendance and class participation will account for 25% of your final grade.

The final 25% of a student's grade will be taken from special research assignments, which will be presented orally and in writing. These assignments must be submitted on time to avoid grade reduction. The requirement will be explained at the first class.

There is no research paper requirement for the course. However, a paper may be done for extra credit. This is optional with the student. Extra credit will be given for a course paper which will be due two weeks before the last class. I expect a well-written and well-research paper of 7 to 10 pages. If a quality paper is submitted with a grade higher than your test average, your grade for the course will be raised. If the grade for the paper is less than the testing average, the grade for the paper will be disregarded and the final grade will be calculated exclusively on testing. If the student opts for the extra credit paper, I will work with the student to decide a topic. If the student chooses to do the paper, he/she must advise me by the mid-point of the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular attendance is fully expected. It is understood that there are circumstances that would prevent a student from attending class (illness, family emergency). The student, in such a case, is expected to notify the instructor as soon as possible of the situation. Students should also check with the instructor regarding missed work or assignments.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students should acquaint themselves with the college's policy on Academic Honesty in the current Student Handbook. Any student found to have violated the college's policy shall be dismissed from the course and assigned a grade of F. Students are urged to see the instructor if they have any questions regarding this matter.

COURSE OUTLINE AND LECTURE TOPICS:

The instructor, with cooperation from the class, will make every effort to cover the following list of topics. This list, however, is subject to modification to best fit the needs of the class. Reading assignments will also be given on a weekly basis.

The study of criminal law and procedure can be exiting. It is hoped that you feel that excitement as you proceed through the course. Knowledge increases with challenge. Challenge occurs when the students are prepared for class and bring their preparation and experiences to the class discussion. Thus, we plan to make the course challenging for you. Best wishes!

Judge Emil Giordano

COURSE OUTLINE

January 19, 2009 - Chapter 1

January 21, 2009 - Chapter 2

January 26, 2009 - Chapter 3

January 28, 2009 - Chapter 4

February 2, 2009 - Chapter 5

February 4, 2009 - TEST

February 9, 2009 - Chapter 6

February 11, 2009 - Chapter 6

February 16, 2009 - Chapter 7

February 18, 2009 - Chapter 7

February 23, 2009 - Chapter 8

February 25, 2009 - Mid Term

March 2, 2009 - Spring Recess - No Class

March 4, 2009 - Spring Recess - No Class

March 9, 2009 - Chapter 9

March 11, 2009 - Chapter 10

March 16, 2009 - Chapter 11

March 18, 2009 - Chapter 12

March 23, 2009 - Chapter 13

March 25, 2009 - TEST

March 30, 2009 - Chapter 14

April 1, 2009 - Chapter 14

April 6, 2009 - Chapter 15

April 8, 2009 - Chapter 15

April 13, 2009 - Easter Recess - No Class

April 15, 2009 - Chapter 16

April 20, 2009 - Chapter 16

April 22, 2009 - Chapter 17

April 27, 2009 - Chapter 18

April 29, 2009 - Chapter 19

May 4, 2009 - Final Exam

May 6, 2009 - Final Exam