

WE

Criminal Justice 223 -- Criminal Law I

Chaminade University -- Winter **Evening 2001**

Instructor: Clay W. Valverde, J.D.

Course Description

This course offers a general overview of the American legal system, with an **emphasis** on **criminal** law. In addition to criminal law, the course will cover basic legal subjects such as contracts and torts, as well as **government** and the legislative process.

The pace of the course will be fairly intense, **with** new topics and chapters covered in each week's reading **assignment**. *There will* be weekly quizzes and writing **assignments** based on the **reading**, in **addition** to two **longer** research papers (at mid-term and end of **term**) and a final exam.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW ON-LINE COURSE -- EVERYTHING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT MY DISCRETION!

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this **course**, the student should:

- have a basic **understanding** of the American legal system, including criminal and civil perspectives;
- understand the basic working **structure** of **American government** as it pertains to **lawmaking**;
- understand specific concepts of **basic** categories of law **such** as torts, contracts, and criminal;
- be able to distinguish between procedural and substantive issues;
- understand the roles of various legal professionals and the **effect** of legal ethics on the practice of law;
- be able to perform legal **analysis** and apply law to facts;
- have a solid foundation for the **pursuit** of advanced legal courses and appreciate the impact of law on other disciplines.

Required text and materials

Introduction to Law, Walston-Dunham, West (1999)

Communications

On-line communication with the **instructor** will be through email at my address of valverdec001@hawaii.rr.com. I expect students to maintain **regular** (at least once a week) contact with **me** by **sending** assignments, questions, or comments about the course.

Communication and class discussion with your fellow students should be **through** the **CJ223 web board**. Please **visit** the **CJ223 web board** to familiarize yourself with its operation and post a brief (50-words or less) introduction (**Post #1**). You will need to choose a permanent username and password to access the web board. There will be weekly web board topics on which you will be required to answer a **question** in essay form **and possibly** respond to other student answers. This requirement should improve your

analytical **skills**, ability to apply law and/or legal **doctrines** to facts, and hopefully foster **class** discussions. I may change the system as needed. Please note, however, that your communications (or lack thereof) with **myself** and the other students will count as a **significant** portion of your grade (See **Requirements** and grading, below).

Requirements and grading

Quizzes

8 **quizzes based on class readings**. 5 points each (graded on a curve -- most quizzes will have about 50 questions and scores will average out as follows: minus 3 or less = 5 pts, minus 4-6 = 4 pts, minus 7-10 = 3 pts, minus 11-15 = 2 pts, minus 16-20 = 1 pt, minus 21 or more = 0 pts). Total for quizzes -- 40 points.

Writing assignments

Two longer format writing **assignments** (research papers) based on class readings, contemporary events, media sources (print, film, on-line etc.), and your **own** ideas. These **will** be due mid-term and the week after the **final** exam (see **note below). **Worth 20 points each**, for a total of 40 points.

Seven web board posts: Except for the introductory post, each week there will be a question, based on the **reading**, for *which you will be* required to write an essay answer showing analysis of a **set** of facts and application of law. 5 points each. 35 points total (Obviously, the introductory **post** is pretty much a "gimme," a 5 point no **brainer** bonus -- **don't** forget to do it).

Communication

Participation in assignments and email with instructor and **classmates**. 25 points.

Final exam

Comprehensive exam based on readings and quizzes, to be given at Chaminade main campus March 17, 2001. 60 points.

Total possible points: 200

Grading scale: 180+=**A**, 160+=**B**, 140+=**C**, 120+=**D**, <120=**F**

Schedule (tentative)

(Schedule is based on a 9-and-1/2 week term beginning January 14, 2000. [**Note: Final exam is March 17, 2000; Paper **assignment** #2 will be due March 20, 2000])

Week 1-- January 14-20

Reading: **Walston-Dunham**, Chapters 1-2

Quiz #1

Web Board Post #1 -- Introduction to class (due by January 20)

Week 2 -- January 21-27

Reading: Walston-Dunham, Chapters 3-4

Web Board Post #2 (due by January 27)

Quiz #2

Week 3 -- January 28-February 3

Reading: **Walston-Dunham**, Chapters 5-6

Web Board Post #3 (due Sat. February 3)

Quiz #3

Writing Assignment #1 (due Sat. February 17)

Week 4 -- February 4-10

Reading: **Walston-Dunham**, Chapters 7-8

Quiz #4

Web Board Post #4 (due Sat. February 10)

Week 5 -- February 11-17

Reading: **Walston-Dunham**, Chapters 9-10

Quiz #5

Writing Assignment # 1 due **Saturday**, February 17

Week 6 -- February 18-24

Reading: **Walston-Dunham**, Chapter 12

Quiz #6

Web Board Post #5 (due by February 24)

week 7 -- February 25-March 3

Reading: **Walston-Dunham**, Chapter 13

iz #7

Web Board Post #6 (due by March

Writing Assignment #2 (due March 20)

Week 8 -- March 4-10

Reading: **Walston-Dunham**, Chapter 15

uiz #8

Web Board Post #7 (due by February 24)

Week 9 -- March 11-17**

Final Exam at Chaminade main campus -- Saturday March 17, 2000

****Writing** Assignment #2 due **Tuesday March** 20, 2000

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