

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

CJ 223 ⁴⁰ Introduction to Law

Instructor: **Dennis Klein, Esq., 955-1500 (days)**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Nature and origins of criminal law, general principles of criminal liability and defenses, and the elements of various crimes such as persons, property, habitation and public order and morals.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Klein has over twenty years' experience in the practice of law, including working as an Assistant District Attorney in New York City, a Courts Specialist for the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, a Deputy District Attorney in Colorado and as a criminal defense attorney in Hawaii. Mr. Klein is a member of the bars of New York, Colorado and Hawaii, and has taught legal courses for several years.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This is a general survey of various areas of law to introduce the students to legal systems and the practical application of the law to factual situations in their personal and professional lives. An emphasis will be placed upon criminal law and criminal procedure. Through textbook readings, real life examples, exams, individual and team projects and assignments, and classroom discussions, the student will develop an understanding of our American legal system.

TEXTBOOK: *Introduction to Law*, Walston-Dunham, West Publishing Co., 3rd edition, 1999.

GRADING: Tests: 80% of the final grade. Note: there are a total of nine tests of equal weight; the lowest test grade will be dropped.

Participation: 20% of the final grade. Participation grade includes attendance/absences, tardiness, preparedness for class, promptness and quality of projects and assignments, participation in class, disruption of class (e.g., cell phones, talking, etc.) inattention, and points will be deducted for such behavior. More than one absence will be reflected in the Participation grade, resulting in a reduction of the final grade in this course (e.g. from an A to a B). All tests, projects and assignments are due when they are due, i.e. at the beginning of each class, and where they are due, i.e. in the classroom. The ability to meet deadlines is an important job skill. No make-ups are allowed for any work.

GRADES: A= 90 to 100; B= 80 to 89; C=70 to 79; D= 60 to 69; F= 0 to 59.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Required: a pen and a highlighter.

Note: each class includes discussions, projects and assignments.

WEEK 1 : Ch. 1, Structure of the Legal System; Ch. 2, The Courts; Test 1.

WEEK 2: Ch. 3, Legislation; Ch. 4, the Executive Branch and Administrative Authority; Test 2.

WEEK 3: Ch. 5, Substantive and Procedural Issues; Test 3.

WEEK 4: Ch. 6, Jurisdiction; Ch. 7, Law of Contracts; Test 4.

WEEK 5: Ch. 8, Property Law; Ch. 9, Torts; Test 5.

WEEK 6: Ch. 10, The Law of Business; Test 6.

WEEK 7: Ch. 12, Criminal Law; Test 7.

WEEK 8: Ch. 13, Criminal Procedure, Test 8.

WEEK 9: Ch. 13, Criminal Procedure, continued, Test 9.

WEEK 10: Ch. 11, Estates and Probate; and Ch. 14, Family Law.