

## **ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Name and Number: CJ 223 10-2 – Introduction to Law (Schofield BKS), Spring 2012

Course dates: 1/9/2012 – 2/13/2012

Course meeting times: Monday & Wednesday 17:30-21:40 (class may end prematurely if we finish with the material for the day).

Instructor Name: Joseph J. Przyuski, JD

Instructor Nickname: Mr. P.

Instructor Biography: Mr. P. is a part-time adjunct professor in the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department at Chaminade University. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Juris Doctorate degree from California Western School of Law in San Diego. Mr. P. is a licensed member of both the California Bar and Hawaii Bar.

Prior to moving to Honolulu, Mr. P. worked as a law clerk for the Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Special Prosecutor for Government Corruption for the CNMI Office of the Attorney General and Legal Counsel to the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor. Mr. P. has also taught criminal justice courses for Northern Marianas College and for the Police Academy of the Northern Marianas Islands Police Department. Mr. P. is currently employed as an associate attorney at the law firm Okura & Associates.

## **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Day time telephone: 808-744-8281 (No evening calls please, unless an emergency)

Email Address: joseph.przyuski@adjunct.chaminade.edu (primary) / jjprzyuski@gmail.com (secondary)

(Use secondary email only when you have problems with CUH e-mail or with prior telephonic approval from the instructor). (Please check my email address spelling before hitting "send". Some students claimed they have sent their assignments to my CUH e-mail address, but I found out later they misspelled my email address, especially my last name).

I will make it a point to be as available as possible during this course. I will be checking my email at least once per day to respond to questions or concerns. I will, from time to time, be traveling for work or be predisposed during certain hours due to other work commitments. I will do my best to inform students of when I will be in transit or busy. It is my personal goal and policy to answer all questions or emails within twenty-four (24) hours.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an overview of the American legal system, including several subject areas of the law. Subject areas include: contract law, property law, criminal law and procedure, tort law, business law, and family law.

## **PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

- 1) CJ 223 provides practical knowledge regarding the inherent complexities of day-to-day operations of the American criminal justice system.
- 2) CJ 223 facilitates the learning about basic rights guaranteed to each individual by both state and federal constitutions and laws.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of the Course, the student will demonstrate understanding of the following:

- 1) The role of government and its role in the law,
- 2) The structure and operation of the American judicial system,
- 3) The various types of civil lawsuits,
- 4) How civil lawsuits are brought and processed,
- 5) The general principles of the criminal justice system and its procedures
- 6) Various provisions of the Bill of Rights from the United States Constitutions and the individual protections afforded,
- 7) Principles of tort law, contract law, property law and family law.

## **TEXTBOOK/RESOURCES**

Walston-Dunham, Beth, *Introduction to Law* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2012), ISBN-10: 1-1113-1189-7. While earlier editions of this title have similar content, the page numbers and some content will be different. Students who attempt to use an older version are put on notice that they will be responsible for the information contained within this official version.

Recommended supplement: any legal dictionary, which will provide students access to learning the legal terms discussed in the text. Searchable online legal resources are available at [findlaw.com](http://findlaw.com), [nolo.com](http://nolo.com), and [dictionary.law.com](http://dictionary.law.com). While online legal resources are free and easy to access, sometimes an in print dictionary is preferable for ease of access.

## **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING**

Each class we will cover a chapter of the text. Each class I will be expecting students to come prepared having read the assigned reading prior to class. In class exercises will include lecture, class discussions, and a required content quiz. At the beginning of each class there will also be a current events assignment due covering the material from the previous class. Additionally there will be a final examination administered during the examination time as set forth by Chaminade's examination schedule. Each graded criteria is discussed more thoroughly below.

**Reading.** As mentioned, we will cover approximately one chapter of the text each class meeting. There will be a reading assignment from the textbook as set forth in the reading list in this syllabus. At times there may be additional reading assignments from sources outside the textbook, which I will assign in class. Students are expected to complete the readings in a timely manner. No grading criteria are set

forth for the reading assignments, however the readings will form the basis of all other graded items and the foundation for learning the course content, thus it is critical that students read and comprehend all assigned content.

**Discussions.** Each class, I will pass out or place on the chalkboard, one or more discussion topics that address the content of the day's reading assignment. I will then provide some time to formulate a discussion point or comment, either individually, or with a partner. I will then lead a class discussion seeking input from individuals. The discussion comments/postings will be collected at the end of the discussion time and students will receive a point score. The postings and comments are worth **five (5) points per class period**.

**Quizzes.** Each class period, I will create a short multiple choice or true/false quiz covering the material assigned for the class period. Quizzes must be taken and answers in person. Each quiz may be taken only one time. Please read each question carefully and choose the best answer. Each quiz will be open book, and will be timed according to the individual quiz instructions. Quizzes will be graded by the instructor and are worth **ten (10) points per quiz**. The content on these quizzes is **not** cumulative but may rely on certain background content covered earlier in this course. Quizzes will focus on materials covered in the specified sections.

Note: Missed quizzes cannot be made up and course work will not be accepted unless turned in on the prescribed day unless the absence is for a documented emergency, documented medical reasons, documented mandatory service to the University, documented mandatory military obligations, or other acceptable reason as deemed by the instructor. The instructor must approve any make-up examination. Delay in contacting the instructor after a missed quiz is reason to deny a make-up.

**Current Events Article Review.** Each class, for each content unit, students are required to locate a current events article from a newspaper, magazine, or journal, which is relevant to the content unit covered in that class period. Students must submit a copy of the current events article, along with a statement addressing specific questions/inquiries included on the assignment sheet.

The current article review assignments are worth **ten (10) points per class**. Please make sure you answer the specific questions thoroughly to demonstrate that you have grasped the key concepts from the chapter reading. Late submission will not be accepted unless prior approval is obtained from me.

**Final Examination.** At the conclusion of the course, there will be a final examination administered during the final examination date as established by Chaminade's Interim Program. Your final exam is **cumulative** and may include any materials covered in the course. Items on the exam may come from the text, supplemental reading materials, discussion questions, or other means used throughout the course. Exams may consist of questions in multiple choices, short answer, and essay formats. The daily quizzes will be an extremely useful review tool for practice final exam test questions. The Final Examination will be worth **seventy-five (75) points**. This is equivalent to 25% of your semester grade.

## **GRADING PROCEDURES**

Letter grades are given as your final grade for this course. Grades are calculated from the student's daily discussions, daily quizzes, daily current event articles, and final examination. The grades are interpreted as follows:

A - Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative.

B - Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner.

C - Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter.

D - Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work.

F - Failure to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit given.

W - Withdrawal before published deadline (see your counselor or academic calendar for details).

I\* - Did not complete a small portion of the work or final examination due to circumstances beyond the student's control. This grade will not be given except under circumstances of extreme hardship (see most recent version of CUH Student Handbook for details).

#### Grading Scale:

A: 90-100% of possible total points

B: 80-89% of possible total points

C: 70-79% of possible total points

D: 60-69% of possible total points

F: 0-59% of possible total points

There are 9 class periods of graded assignments, which totals twenty-five (25) points per class (Discussion Responses – 5 points, Quiz – 10 points, Current Events – 10 points). The daily assignments total 225 points (or 75% of total grade). The final examination is worth seventy-five (75) points (or 25% of total grade). There are three hundred (300) total points available for this course.

#### READING SCHEDULE

Note: We will be covering approximately one textbook chapter each class meeting. We will be “skipping” around the book to cover materials in a manner that focuses on the important sections of the book. Please note, students are **NOT** responsible for reading the portions of the chapters captioned “CASE” and appearing in a shaded textbox with a small gavel icon. These are edited excerpts from actual judicial opinions.

These excerpts will not be tested on, but they are helpful tools to allow you the opportunity to read more about the substantive law and to understand how judges and lawyers apply some of the legal rules and substantive areas of law that we learn about. Reading the cases and understanding the concepts they discuss is HIGHLY recommended. I believe you will gain a much deeper understanding of the subject areas, and will greatly improve your reading comprehension, analytical thinking, and understanding of legal terminology.

<b>Class date:</b>	<b>Subject matter covered &amp; reading assignment:</b>
January 9, 2012	Chapter 1, Historical Basis and Current Structure of the American Legal System, pages 1-25
January 11, 2012	Chapter 2, The Courts, pages 26-57
January 16, 2012	Chapter 9, Tort Law, pages 223 – 285
January 18, 2012	Chapter 12, Property Law, pages 385-432
February 6, 2012	Chapter 13, Contract Law, pages 435-466
February 13, 2012	Chapter 14, Business Law, pages 468-518
February 20, 2012	Chapter 10, Family Law, pages 285-350 (skip pages 306-315 (Exhibit 10.3))
February 27, 2012	Chapter 15, Criminal Law, pages 520-552
March 5, 2012	Chapter 16, Criminal Procedure, pages 554 - 600
March 12, 2012	Make-up class or Final Exam Review/Preparation Week (no new assignments)

## **COURSE GROUND RULES**

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at this university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty, and by reporting incidences of academic dishonesty (such as theft of tests, records, and other confidential materials, altering grades, cheating on quizzes or examinations, and/or plagiarism) to their instructors. Questions of academic dishonesty are reviewed first by the instructor, followed by the Director, who supervises the faculty teaching the courses.

### **PLAGIARISM**

Chaminade University policies regarding academic honesty are explicit. The standards as clearly stated in the Academic Catalog will be strictly enforced. There is no excuse for using another's work and turning it in as your own, and absolutely no value in irreparably damaging your reputation and your class grade.

## **OTHER ACADEMIC POLICIES**

Students are expected to be aware of the academic standards set forth in the updated Chaminade General Catalog.

## **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Discussions/Quizzes/Current Events must be completed on the due date and times specified in the syllabus. Otherwise loss of all credit will occur.

## **GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNICATIONS**

Email:

1. Use the Chaminade email system.
2. Always include a subject line.

Discussions:

1. Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group.
2. Be respectful of other's ideas.
3. Be patient and listen to the comments of others thoroughly before entering your remarks.
4. Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks.
5. Be positive and constructive in group discussions.
6. Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

## **LIBRARY USE ENCOURAGED**

Visit your library ([www.chaminade.edu/library](http://www.chaminade.edu/library) for hours, etc.) at a minimum for your current events article review assignments and to access other research resources. Most, if not all, current events article assignments can be done using online research; however students often further their learning experience by availing themselves of in-print materials. If you do not have access to the Chaminade campus library due to geographical constraints, try to use other in print resources accessible to your area.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

It is the student's responsibility to self identify with the Director of Personal Counseling in order to receive accommodations. Only those students with appropriate documentation will receive services. Contact the Director of Personal Counseling at (808) 739-4603 or email: [jyasuhar@chaminade.edu](mailto:jyasuhar@chaminade.edu).