



CJ 375 Contemporary Issues in CJ
Online 2012

- Instructor:** Nova C. Akau (Jones), MSCJA, Parole Officer
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- Textbook:** Weinreb L.L. *Leading Constitutional Cases of Criminal Justice*. Foundation Press: New York
- Objective:** This is an examination of the issues currently faced by the criminal justice system focusing on contemporary issues which are projected to have a major impact upon the quality of life for the community and the ability of the criminal justice system to provide to the community. (Catalog Description).
- Grading:** Grades will be based on the following:
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| Attendance/Discussions/Participation (20%) | A = 90 - 100 |
| Assignments (20%) | B = 89 - 90 |
| Research Paper & Presentation (30%) | C = 79 - 70 |
| Exams/Quizzes (30%) | D = 69 - 60 |
| | F = 59 - 50 |
- Attendance:** Attendance/Discussions is mandatory, essential, and will fall within school guidelines -- meaning it will and can affect your final grade. If you do not participate for a two week period, which means you missed 20% of class, you will be dropped from the class immediately.
- Class Participation:** Each student is expected to participate during class/group discussions and be respectful of opinions that others may have.
- Assignments:** Application is key to comprehension. Be prepared. The purpose of assignments is to demonstrate understanding, writing skills, and provoke thought. All assignments for the drop box are to be typed, using 12 point font, one inch margins, and be double spaced. Please have your name in the upper left hand corner along with the date the assignment was due. As for the threaded discussions, the points earned will be based on content (thoughtfulness of entry) and responses to your fellow students. Late assignments will be accepted on a case by case basis. Reported computer problems resulting in late submissions will also be considered on a case by case basis.
- Articles:** Each week, you will submit two articles and your reactions to them. They must relate to the topic of the week. The date of the article must be within the past two years. You will submit the article itself to the Webliography for your fellow students to review. Your article reaction papers are to be submitted via the dropbox. For the reaction papers, you summarize the article and provide your thoughts to the article. The length of your reaction paper varies. Grades are not based on length but

is based on content. Late articles will be accepted on a case by case basis. Reported computer problems resulting in late submissions will also be considered on a case by case basis. A sample of an article reaction paper is located in the Course Home section.

Case Briefs: Each week, you will submit two case briefs that relate to the topic of the week using the assigned text book. The case briefs will be submitted via the dropbox. A sample case brief is located in the Course Home section.

Research Paper: The topic of your paper will reflect the topics of the class and must be approved by the instructor prior to the start of your research. The format of your paper must be APA. The minimum amount of pages is five. There is no maximum. You must use a minimum of three resources. You will be graded on knowledge of the topic, analysis, resources used, presentation, and the ability to abide by the stated structure. Resources will be reviewed to determine reliability and credibility. Presentations will be submitted to Doc Sharing for your peers to review and allow feedback. The presentations will be in a power point type format. Late papers will be accepted on a case by case basis.

Exams: Two exams given, midterm and final, in essay format.

Of Note: The Syllabus and Course Outline may change at instructor's discretion. Due dates and other details are located in Course Home section. This is a general guide to what each week will entail.

Course Outline:

Week One: Introduction of Students, Overview of the Class & Class Exercise

Week Two: *Bill of Rights & Due Process*
Bill of Rights Assignment
One Due Process Case Brief Due
Articles 1 & 2 Due
Class Discussion/Exercise
Research Paper Topics Due

Week Three: *Fourth Amendment & Surveillance*
Two Case Briefs Due
Articles 3 & 4 Due
Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Four: *Right to Counsel & Self-Incrimination*
Two Case Briefs Due
Articles 5 & 6 Due
Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Five: Midterm

Week Six: *Lineups & Prosecution*
Two Case Briefs Due
Articles 7 & 8 Due

Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Seven: *Plea Bargaining & Trial*
Two Case Briefs Due
Articles 9 & 10 Due
Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Eight: *Sentence & Imprisonment*
Case Briefs Due
Articles 11 & 12 Due
Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Nine: All Final Papers Due via the drop box
Presentation of Papers Due via the Doc Sharing

Week Ten: Final