

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY SYLLABUS

COURSE: CJ 375: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

SEMESTER: 2000 Spring Day Semester, Henry Hall 118.

DAY/TIME: Mondays/ Wednesdays/ Fridays: 9:00-9:50 a.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Collin K. C. Lau, **Assistant** Professor

TELEPHONE: 735-4882 or CJ office 735-4703 (Michelle).

E-MAIL: clau@chaminade.edu

OFFICE HOURS: M/W/F 7:30-9:00, 10-11 a.m. or by appointment.

BIOGRAPHY: **Mr. Lau** is an **Assistant** Professor in the Criminal Justice department at Chaminade University. He received a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Hawaii and a Juris Doctorate from the Richardson School of Law. Mr. Lau has worked as a law clerk for the Hawaii Supreme Court, a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, a Deputy Corporation Counsel and in the private practice of law. Mr. Lau also worked two terms as an Independent Counsel to the Oahu Grand Jury.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An examination of issues currently faced by the criminal justice system focusing upon contemporary issues which are projected to have a major impact upon the quality of life for the community and the ability to provide services to the community.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to: identify the elements of various crimes related to criminal law; perform basic legal research; appreciate the impact of the United States Constitution on criminal law and have knowledge of important court cases and their impact on the law.

REQUIRED TEXT: Bender, David and Leone, Bruno, *Criminal Justice Opposing Viewpoints*, (1993).

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: Class participation is an expected and essential requirement of the course. A student's participation in each session is considered important to the learning process. Missing a session is not an excuse for not being prepared for the next session. A student's absence from or late arrivals to a session will impact the student's grade. In general, there is no make-up procedure for missed examinations or assignments. Students who have advanced knowledge that they will miss a session or deadline should contact the instructor to make arrangements to take the examination at another time. The decision to allow a make-up assignment under these circumstances rests with the

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instructor and will be made on a case-by-case basis. If a student did not have advanced notice that s/he would miss a session or assignment deadline, s/he must contact the instructor within 24 hours. A message may be left by the student on voice mail at any time. A student who misses an session or deadline and is allowed by the instructor to take do a make-up must be prepared to take it immediately (usually within 48 hours).

READING ASSIGNMENTS: All reading assignments must be completed prior to class or the student will not be prepared to participate meaningfully in class discussions. Classes are prepared on the assumption and expectation that the student has read the assigned materials and completed any required assignments. It is particularly important that assigned cases are read for presentation in the upcoming class. Failure to read and prepare for assigned cases will result in a deduction of points from a student's point total.

COURSE EVALUATIONS: Final grades are based on the following factors:

FIRST MID-TERM	100 Points
CLASS ASSIGNMENTS	100 Points
FINAL EXAM/ PROJECT.....	150 Points

GRADING: A = 90% of the possible 350 total points (315+)
B = 80% of the possible 300 total .points. (280+)
C = 70% of the possible 300 total points. (245+)
D = 60% of the possible 300 total points. (210+)
F = less than 60% of the possible points. (<210)
FA = failure due to excessive unexcused absences

Note: a grade calculated by the percentage of possible examination points may be reduced to the next lower grade in the event of excessive absences or failure of class participation.

End of syllabus.