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CJ **375 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice**
Chaminade University of Honolulu

Instructor: Melvin D. De Costa
Location: Tripler
Date: Tuesday's 5:30pm to 9:40pm
Phone: Kahala Mall #732-7736

Biographical Statement

Retired from the Honolulu Police Department as a Captain after 28 years of service (1989)_ Formerly, the Director of Security and Safety at the Sheraton Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Presently, the Director of Security at Kahala Mall. Also, President and Owner of DC Investigative Services. BA and Masters Degrees in Justice Management from Chaminade University. Adjunct Professor at Chaminade University 1995 to present.

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 of the Criminal Justice System to provide services to the community.

Course Objectives

The objective of CJ375 is to stimulate the student to consider the operation of the Criminal Justice System in the United States, the purpose of laws, and the justice received by certain groups within society. The aim of the class is to develop critical thinking skills, which can be applied to solve problems in Public Administration and Criminal Justice. At the conclusion of this course it is expected that the student will be able to:

1. Clearly and logically describe a problem
2. Evaluate the arguments and facts related to a problem
3. Assess the seriousness of a problem
4. Arrive at a reasonable conclusion to the problem and present that solution either orally or in writing in h PROM manner

Recommended Text

Joseph L. Victor, Editor (1999-2000) Criminal Justice, Annual Edition, Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, ISBN 0-07-033007-7.

Attendance

Attendance is an **expected** and **necessary requirement** of this course. It is **recognized** that **there are** times when the student will **not** be **able** to **attend** class. **Absence from** class **will** impact the **student's grade**. This class is **conducted** as a seminar class and participation in each class session is **considered** important to **the learning process**. **Missing** a class is not an **excuse** for not being **prepared** for the **next** class, completing **reading assignments** or **other** projects that **were assigned during the** missed **class**. **Certain presentations and** assignments are of such a nature that it may be **impossible** to make them up if missed due to absence. If **this is the** case, **the student** will not receive credit for **the presentation and the grade** will be recorded as an "F".

Reading assignments

It is absolutely necessary that reading **assignments be completed prior** to class or the **student will** not be prepared to **participate** meaningfully in **discussions**. The student's grade may be adversely **impacted** by evidence of failure to read **assignments** prior to **class**. Students should be **prepared with** pertinent text and materials and other **research** such as the **Internet**.

Grades are assigned based **upon evaluation** of the following portfolio items:

1) Participation in class and attendance	30 points
2) 3 written position papers and 3 oral position presentations	80 points
TOTAL POINTS	210 points
A	180 points
B	160 points
C	140 points
D	120 points

Requirements of the Position Paper

Position papers should be approximately 175 to 250 words in length. The paper should state a **single thesis** sentence or position and **provide** logical **argumentation** to support **your** position.

Disclaimer

This **instructor reserves** the **right** to make slight **adjustments** to this syllabus as may be necessitated by course **developments** or **circumstances**. Any **adjustments** will be **announced** to the **class** prior.

Course Outline

- I) Syllabus Review. **Argumentation to distinguish** between **fact and** opinion. Video.
The media **influences** public perception of crime.
- 2) Topic I: ***The Death Penalty***. Review and discussion.
- 3) Topic II: ***Legalization of*** . Review and discussion.
1st oral position due on **the Death Penalty** (Group).
- 4) Topic III: ***& privatization of Pr*** Review and discussion.
1 st written position paper due on **Legalization of Drugs**.
- 5) Topic IV: ***Workplace Violence Issues***. Review and discussion.
No paper on **this subject**.
2nd oral position due on **Privatization** of Prisons.
- 6) Topic V: ***Juvenile Crime*** - Treat them as adults. Review and discussion.
- Topic Vii ***Gun Control***. Review and discussion.
2nd written position paper due on Juvenile Crime.
- 8) Topic VII: ***Domestic Violence*** . Review and discussion.
3rd oral position due on Gun Control.
- 9) 3rd written position paper due on Domestic Violence.
- TOTAL.: 3 Written Position Papers: 1. **Legalization of Drugs**
2. Juvenile Crime
3. **Domestic Violence**
- 3 Oral Positions: 1. Death Penalty
2. **Privatization of Prisons**
3. Gun Control
- 10) Make-ups due.
Extra credit: Optional **student** oral position presentations.