

Chaminade University of Honolulu
CJ 375²⁸ Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

Instructor:

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OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Course Description and General Outline:

Discuss and examine current issues faced by the Criminal Justice System. The main focus will be directed towards contemporary issues which are known to have a major impact upon the community and the ability of the Criminal Justice System to provide the necessary services to the community. The objective of this course will be to stimulate the student to consider all possible operations of the Criminal Justice System in the United States (e.g. the purpose of the laws and the type of punishment/ justice received within society). The student will be encouraged to develop critical thinking skills which will be utilized to solve problems in Public Administration and Criminal Justice. Students will also be required to relate theoretical subject matter will current events.

Textbook:

M. Ethan Katsh & William Rose, Editor (2002); Taking Sides, Clashing Views on Controversial Legal Issues; Tenth Edition; McGraw-Hill/ Dushkin.

Additional Course Materials:

To be announced and/ or distributed by the instructor.

Attendance:

Attendance comprises of one-third of the final class grade (**refer to grading policy**). Upon three absences a deficiency notice will be sent to the registrar with the recommendation that the student withdraw from the class. Students who miss three or more classes will receive a grade of "**FA- Failure due to poor attendance.**" On rare occasions, exceptions will be made due to documents military necessity and / or serious family emergencies. (NOTE: ALL ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE AND CLEARED WITH THE INSTRUCTOR PRIOR TO ANY ABSENCES OR MILITARY LEAVE). It will be the **student's responsibility** to communicate with the registrar regarding withdrawals, add/ drop, credit/ no-credit option. In addition, it is also the **student's responsibility** to make the appropriate contact with the instructor.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on a point system. There will be a total of 760 possible points; 100 points for attendance; 60 points for small group discussions; 300 points for written position papers; 300 points for oral position presentations.

Breakdown of Point System:

Attendance: 100 points - (students arriving on time, prepared for and participating in all classes will receive 100 points).

90 points - 1 absence

80 points - 2 absences

****RECOMMENDED COURSE WITHDRAWAL and/ or FAILURE DUE TO ATTENDANCE - 3 absences**

Group: 60 points - each student will be expected to participate actively in small group discussions relating to the class.

Position Papers:

100 points per position paper (300 point total) - Students will prepare 3 written position papers. (3 pages minimum, this does not include the title page nor the bibliography page) The paper should state a single thesis statement or position and provide logical argumentation to support your position. All papers must conform to the Chaminade University writing requirements. (Points will be deducted if the paper does not meet the specified requirements)

- 3 Written Position Papers:
- 1. Legalization of Drugs
 - 2. Sex Offender Notification
 - 3. Virtual Child Pornography

Oral Position Presentations:

100 points per oral position presentation (300 points total) - Student will make an oral presentation to the class on their position on the following subject matter. (Note: There will be no make ups if you miss the presentation day).

- 3 Oral Position Presentations:
- 1. Physician Assisted Suicide
 - 2. Web Site/ Violent Acts
 - 3. Music Files Through Napster Violate Copyright Laws?

Final Grades:

- A 730-760 points
- B 700-729 points
- C 670-699 points
- D 640-669 point
- F Below 639 or more than 2 absences

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to make slight adjustments to this syllabus as may be necessitated by course development or circumstances. Any adjustments will be announced to the class prior.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK	ASSIGNMENTS
1	Introduction; Syllabus Review; Fill out student information sheets; Argumentation to distinguish between fact and opinion; Video.
2	Topic I: <u>The Death Penalty</u> . Review and discussion
3	Topic II: <u>Legalization of Drugs</u> Review and discussion. 1 st oral position presentation due on Physician Assisted Suicide.
4	Topic III: <u>Web Sites/ Violent Acts</u> Review and discussion. 1 st written position paper due on Legalization of Drugs.
5	Topic IV: <u>Virtual Child Pornography</u> Review and discussion. 2 nd oral position presentation due on Web Site/ Violent Acts.
6	Topic V: <u>Sex Offender Notification</u> Review and discussion.
7	Topic VI: <u>Music Files Through Napster Violate Copyright Laws?</u> Review and discussion. 2 nd written position paper due on Sex Offender Notification.
8	Topic VII: <u>Use of High Technology Thermal Imaging Devices Violate the 4th Amendment?</u> Review and discussion. 3 rd oral position presentation due on Music Files Through Napster Violate Copyright Laws?
9	Topic VIII: <u>Should the Insanity Defense be Abolished?</u> Review and discussion. 3 rd written position paper due on Virtual Child Pornography.
10	Make ups due; Open Floor discussions; closing.