

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE & NUMBER: CJ 420-Courts and Legal Institutions.

DAY/HOUR: Tuesdays/ Thursdays 9:20-10:50 a.m., Henry Hall 118.

INSTRUCTOR: Assistant Professor Collin K. C. Lau

TELEPHONE/E-MAIL: 735-4882 or CJ office 735-4703 (Michelle)/ clau@chamiande.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 7:30-9:00 a.m., Tuesdays 11 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. or by appointment at Henry Hall 206A.

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 introduction to legal institutions and their pervasive influence on persons in society, through the device of studying different areas of the law, including civil and criminal law and government control and regulation of business through laws.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of the course, the student will:

be exposed to an overview of American legal system,
understand the inner workings within and between various components within the criminal justice system,
learn about the role and duties of prosecuting attorneys,
learn about the role and duties of criminal defense attorneys,
understand the responsibilities of judges within the criminal justice system,
be introduced to the methods and challenges of legal research.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: Neubauer, David, America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System, (6th edition 1999).

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 an 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 instructor

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