



CJ 375 Contemporary Issues in CJ  
On-Line

- Instructor:** Nova C. Akau, MSCJA, Parole Officer IV (State)  
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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:
- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 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. Attendance is measured via the discussions. If you do not participate for a two week period, which means you missed 20% of class, you will likely be dropped from the class immediately. Late discussion submissions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and must be discussed with the instructor prior to the due date.
- ADA Accommodations:** Any accommodations requested under the American Disability Act must be conducted through the Counseling Center.
- Class Participation:** Each student is required to participate during discussions and be respectful of opinions that others may have. Every week, you will be required to post a discussion (topic given by instructor) and respond to at least three of your fellow classmates. Your participation is mandatory.
- 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 and must be

discussed with the instructor prior to the due date. Reported computer problems resulting in late submissions will also be considered on a case by case basis and must be discussed with the instructor prior to the due date.

**Articles:** Each week, you will submit two articles that contain the summary of the article and your reaction/response to them. You will submit the article itself to the Weblibliography for your fellow students to review. Your article reaction papers are to be submitted via the dropbox. The articles must relate to the topic of the week, demonstrate the class objective, and must be within the past five years. The length of your reaction paper varies. Grades are not based on length but is based on content. The source of your article must be provided and it's degree of reliability will be evaluated.

**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.

Any paper that is plagiarized will result in an automatic failure for the class. Late papers will be accepted on a case by case basis and must be discussed with the instructor prior to the due date.

**Academic Policies:** Students are expected to comply with the standards related to academic honesty and plagiarism that are stated in the Chaminade General Catalog. Failure to adhere to these policies can result in a failing grade.

**General Chaminade Matters:** The five characteristics of a Marianist Education are:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith.
2. Provide an Excellent Education.
3. Educate in Family Spirit.
4. Educate for Service, Justice, and Peace.
5. Educate for Adaptation to Change.

Selected from Characteristics of Marianist Universities: A Resource Paper, Published in 1999 by Chaminade University of Honolulu, St. Mary's University and University of Dayton. Each of these characteristics is integrated, to varying degrees, in this course.

**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 Questions

Week Two: *Due Process*  
Two Due Process Case Brief Due  
Articles 1 & 2 Due  
Questions  
Class Discussion/Exercise  
Research Paper Topics Due

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

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

Week Five: Midterm

Week Six: *Lineups & Prosecution*  
Two Case Briefs Due  
Articles 7 & 8 Due  
Questions  
Class Discussion/Exercise

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

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

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

Week Ten:

Final