



CJ 375 Contemporary Issues in CJ  
2015  
Tripler Army Medical Center

- Instructor:** Nova C. Akau, MSCJA, MSW  
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- Textbook:** Weinreb L.L. (2012). *Leading Constitutional Cases of Criminal Justice*. New York: Foundation Press.
- 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:
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|--|--------------|
| Attendance/Discussions/Participation (20%) | A = 90 - 100 |
| Assignments (30%)                          | B = 89 - 80  |
| Research Paper & Presentation (30%)        | C = 79 - 70  |
| Exams/Quizzes (20%)                        | D = 69 - 60  |
|  | F = 59 - 50  |
- Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory, essential, and will fall within school guidelines -- meaning it will and can affect your final grade. If you do not attend for a two week period, which means you missed 20% of class, you will likely fail the class or be asked to withdraw. Repeated tardies will also result in a reduced grade or overall failure (two tardies equals one absence). It is your responsibility to contact the instructor if you will not be attending class prior to class at which time assignments due and future assignments will be discussed.
- ADA Accommodations:** Any accommodations requested under the American Disability Act must be conducted through the Counseling Center prior to the start of the course.
- Class Participation:** Each student is expected to participate during class/group discussions and be respectful of opinions that others may have.
- Assignments:** Application is key to comprehension. Be prepared. The purpose of assignments is to demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and writing skills; thought provoking as well. All assignments 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. Late assignments

will be accepted on a case-by-case basis and must be discussed with the instructor prior to the due date.

**Article Reaction Papers:** Each week, you will submit one article reaction paper. There are two parts to the paper: summary and your reaction. The article must relate to the topics/chapters of the week, demonstrate the class objective, and must be within the past five years. The length of your reaction paper varies with emphasis being on the content. The source of your article must be provided and its degree of reliability will be evaluated. Late assignments are accepted on a case-by-case basis and must be discussed with the instructor prior to the due date.

**Case Briefs:** Case briefs will be assigned each week and will contain the following: name of case, citation, criminal charge, facts, procedural history, legal issue, law, rule, and final disposition of the case. Use each item listed as a subheading. Late assignments are accepted on a case-by-case basis and must be discussed with the instructor prior to the due date.

**Research Paper:** The topic of your paper will reflect the class objectives and must be approved by the instructor at the onset of class. The format of your paper must be APA with a minimum of five pages. There is no maximum. You must use a minimum of five scholarly resources. You will be graded on knowledge of the topic, analysis, resources used, presentation, and the ability to abide by the stated structure.

You will present your findings to your peers. The preference for the presentations is power point and the like. However, if you feel a different method would be more appropriate or effective, please feel free to discuss it with the instructor prior.

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.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate and understanding of:

1. The primary U.S. Constitution amendments affected by police, courts, and corrections.
2. The role of the U.S Supreme Court in setting policies and procedures for the CJ system.
3. The leading constitutional cases of the criminal justice system.
4. The current effects of the amendments on police, courts, and corrections.
5. The current impact of the policies and procedures of police, courts, and corrections onto the community thus public safety.
6. The impact of the current issues (i.e., economy & diversity) to the CJ system and community.
7. The impact of the current media approach to the CJ system and the community.

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:** Please answer each of the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1. What are the primary amendments to the U.S. Constitution that affect police, courts, and corrections?
2. What is the role of the U.S. Supreme Court in setting policies and procedures for the CJ system?
3. What are the leading constitutional cases of the criminal justice system?
4. What are the current effects of the amendments on police, courts, and corrections?
5. What is the current impact of the policies and procedures of police, courts, and corrections onto the community and how does it affect public safety?
6. What is the impact of the current issues to the CJ system and community?
7. What is the impact of the current media approach to the CJ system and community?

**Exams:** Two exams given: midterm and final in essay formats.

**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.

**Classroom Decorum:** No cell phone use or texting during class. Unless it's an emergency, do not answer your phone or respond to a text. Any electronic devices used during class must be for course work only and discussed with the instructor prior to its use.

**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.

**Course Outline:** The Syllabus and Course Outline may change at instructor's discretion.

Week One: Introduction of Students, Overview of the Class & Class Discussion & Exercise

Week Two: *Bill of Rights & Due Process (Fundamental Rights)*  
 Assignments Due: Week One Questions, One Due Process Case Brief, Article 1 Due, and Research Topic  
 Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Three: *Fourth Amendment & Surveillance*  
 Assignments Due: Two Case Briefs and Article 2  
 Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Four: *Right to Counsel & Self-Incrimination*

Assignments Due: Two Case Briefs and Article 3  
Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Five: Midterm

Week Six: *Prosecution & Indictment*  
Assignments Due: Two Case Briefs and Article 4  
Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Seven: *Plea Bargaining & Trial*  
Assignments Due: Two Case Briefs Due and Article 5  
Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Eight: *Sentence & Prison*  
Assignments Due: Two Case Briefs and Article 6  
Class Discussion/Exercise

Week Nine: All Final Papers Due and to be Presented

Week Ten: Final