

Philadelphia University
(School of Liberal Arts)
Law and Society
LAW-103
Spring 2009

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Crime and Justice (Law-103)

Introduction to the course

This course provides an introduction to criminal justice in America. The course examines the criminal justice system and process in the social context of justice and democratic society. It also examines criminal courts as a political institution that makes decisions with an eye to the press and popular opinion as well as to race, class and justice. Finally, the course will introduce students to current cases and controversies within the social context of prevailing political, social and cultural currents.

Course Outcomes

Crime and Justice has both major-specific goals and general education goals for students. Through the work in this course students will:

- Recognize key concepts in Criminal law & procedure, and justice
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of some of the key court rulings that have contributed to the current U.S. criminal law system
- Discuss and analyze the impact of social, economic, and political factors that have shaped the criminal court system
- Think critically about current debates concerning existing institutions related to the U.S. criminal law system
- Use both print and electronic tools to access information, with especial emphasis on guided use of the internet to research focused, targeted topics.

Organization of the Course

This course is a reading and discussion seminar. You will use a criminal law textbook that introduces the elements of criminal justice from an interdisciplinary perspective. You will also read books on specific cases, state of the art methods of investigating crime, and articles about specific topics in criminal justice. These shorter readings will enrich and deepen your understanding of the issues addressed in the textbook. Because this will not be a strictly lecture-based course, classroom activities will vary, class participation will be crucial (and graded), and students must hold themselves responsible for doing the readings and required preparation for each class.

You will brief cases, engage in debates on important criminal law topics and the culminating activity in this course will be an in-depth class simulation of criminal court decision making.

The course begins with a general introduction to the criminal justice system, including the structure and process of criminal justice system. You also will examine inherent biases within the existing system along race and class lines. With this foundation in hand, you will then examine the police, including state of the art policing techniques and constitutional constraints on police powers. Next

you will examine the criminal court process. Finally, you will investigate community-based criminal justice process and the juvenile justice process.

Required Texts. In addition to the four texts listed below, additional required readings will be provided either electronically or as handouts. All required reading listed for any given date should be done in advance, and any questions with which you have been provided should be answered in your course notebook prior to the class session.

- George F. Cole, The American System of Criminal Justice (2009)
- David Cole, No Equal Justice
- Jay Aronson, Genetic Witness
- Steve Bogira, Courtroom 302

Course requirements. Because this is a discussion-based course, your regular attendance and participation is a requirement, and will be graded. Students are expected to do all readings and complete all assignments listed for a class session prior to coming to class that day; your participation will provide evidence of your having done readings and preparation assignments. The instructor will provide questions to guide your reading, but you should also develop questions of your own based on your reading of the materials. The specific assignments for the course with their respective weights are:

Four brief essays	20% (5% each)
Research paper/ presentation	20%
Class Debates	10%
Class participations/simulation	20%
Mid-Term Exam	10%
Final Exam	20%

Grading scale

A	93-100%	C+	77-79%
A-	90-92%	C	73-76%
B+	87-89%	C-	70-72%
B	83-86%	D+	67-69%
B-	80-82%	D	60-66%
		F	0-59%

Assignment Return Policy. According to the policy of the School of Liberal Arts I shall make every effort to return exams within one week of the exam and to return papers within two weeks from the date that the papers were submitted.

Attendance and Participation

Papers, exams and other assignments will incorporate ideas and information discussed in class. Students who do not come to class on a regular basis will be at a disadvantage. Students who miss 3 or more classes are subject to a grade penalty.

Late Paper Policy

Work is due at the beginning of class on the designated day (unless I say otherwise). If you do not hand in your work at this time, it will be counted as late. Late work may be subject to a grade penalty, ½ grade per day late.

Late Person Policy

Please do not be late for class. Repeated lateness may result in a lowered grade.

Technology Statement

Please be considerate and make sure before class you have turned off cell phones, pagers and other distracting technology.

Documentation. All written submitted work must include full correct citations of all sources, using APA style, which involves in-text parenthetical citations within the text and full bibliographic citation presented in a works cited page. Improper citation is a form of plagiarism.

Academic Integrity. Plagiarism is one form of academic dishonesty that involves presenting another person's ideas, writings, or creations as your own. Academic integrity requires you to properly cite your sources, so as not be guilty of plagiarism, and to refrain from cheating or assisting any other person to cheat. Improperly citing sources may result in penalties, and explicit intentional plagiarism is grounds for failing the assignment and possibly the course. Dismissal from the University is the most severe penalty for academic dishonesty. The University's Integrity Policy is available electronically via Outlook. If you have questions concerning how to avoid plagiarism, you can begin by consulting the Learning and Advising Center website: <http://www.philau.edu/learning>.

Academic Support Services

Gutman Library www.philau.edu/library

Students may use the above address to access Gutman Library's home page, which is filled with information about the library and its services, and through which you may search through the Library's own electronic holdings list as well as access the Library's numerous subscription databases. The University's librarians are skilled professionals; they are available on-line and in person to assist you with research projects.

The Learning and Advising Center (www.philau.edu/learning <<http://www.philau.edu/learning/www.philau.edu/learning>>)

The Learning and Advising Center provides one-on-one tutoring assistance for writing, study strategies, test taking, and specific Philadelphia University courses. To make a tutoring appointment, students should stop by the Learning and Advising Center in Hagggar Hall or call (215) 951-2799. Academic resources, including information on citation and documentation, note taking, and study strategies are available on the Center's website.

Technology Assistance <http://www.philau.edu/OIT>

For assistance with technology issues, students should contact the Technology Help Desk at (215) 951-4648 (ext. 4648) or send an email to helpdesk@philau.edu. General purpose computing facilities are available in Search Hall and in Gutman Library.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS BY WEEK

Week One January (14, 16)

Introductions

Week Two (Jan. 19-23)

MLK B-Day (no class)

Crime and Justice in Obama's America: The Cases of Blago, Bush and Madoff

Readings: Handouts

Week Three (January 26-30)

Overview of the Criminal Justice Process

Readings: GF Cole, Part I pp. 2-127

Essay 1 Due (Friday, Jan 30) Topic: How to read Blago, Bush, and Madoff through prism of American Justice

Week Four (Feb 2-6)

Law Enforcement

Readings: GF Cole, Part II, pp. (129-239)

Week Five (Feb. 9-13)

Constitutional Constraints on Policing

Miranda warnings, Exclusionary rule

Readings: Cases handout/ BB

Week Six (Feb. 16-20)

Technology, Police Investigations and Civil Liberties

Readings: Jay Aronson, Genetic Witness

Essay 2 Due Feb. 20; Topic: Policing and Individual Rights

Week Seven (Feb. 23-27)

Criminal Courts

Readings: GF Cole Part 3, (241-425)

Week Eight (March 2-6)

Criminal Courts

Gideon v Wainright (Gideon's Trumpet)

Readings: GF Cole Part 3 cont.; Bogira, Courtroom 302

Midterm Exam

Week Nine (March 9-13)

Review midterm

Essay 3 Due March 13; Topic: Criminal Courts and Society

March 16-20

Spring Break

Week Ten (March 23-27)

Corrections/Prisons

Readings: GF Cole, Part 4, pp 427-570

Week Eleven (March 30-April 3)

Corrections

Prison Industrial Complex

Reading: on BB

Essay 4 Due: Topic: Incarceration (April 3)

Week Twelve-Thirteen (April 6-17)

Juvenile Justice

GF Cole, Part 5

Weeks Fourteen-Fifteen (April 20-May 1)

Presentations and Review for final exam.

I reserve the right to make changes in this syllabus. You shall be notified of any changes.