You Are Responsible For Reading and Understanding This Syllabus

Syllabus

A. General Information

This advanced course will study the United States legal and criminal justice system for the purpose of comparing it with other legal and criminal justice systems. Specifically the course will examine, in addition to the U.S. system, the civil law (continental European) system generally, and the English, French, Italian, Islamic, and international systems in particular. Our main course project will be an intensive group examination of the Amanda Knox murder trial. This assignment will focus on the investigative, evidential, procedural, media, prosecutorial, political and judicial aspects of the case with the goal of formulating a group-authored article based. This project will first compare the Italian criminal law system with the United States criminal judicial process. Further, we will specifically address whether justice was exercised when Ms. Knox was recently found guilty of murder. The presentation format of the class will be lecture and seminar mixed, sometimes using visual aids, supplemented by Socratic dialogue and discussion.

B. Assigned and Recommended Reading Materials

The following three texts will provide most of the required reading for the course. They will be available for purchase at the University Bookstore and known internet sites:

1. Title: Law 101 - Everything You Need to Know About the American Legal System
   Author: Jay M. Feinman
   Publisher: Oxford University Press, 2000 (first edition)

2. Title: Courts, Law and Politics in Comparative Perspective (hardback)
   Authors: Herbert Jacob, Erhard Blankenburg, Herbert M. Kritzer, Doris Marie Provine, Joseph Sanders
   Publisher: Yale University Press 1996 (first edition)

2. Various hand-outs to be announced in class and on BB
Supplementary materials, either in the form of handouts of specific selected texts or articles, will be assigned on Black board web site.

C. Course Requirements and Grading

1 Tests and Papers - Students will be expected to attend class regularly, to read before class the assigned materials, and to participate in class discussions. Grades will primarily be based on the following:

a. One mid-term, closed book essay with respect to the course content, to determine the student's understanding of the assigned readings and materials presented in class lectures and discussions. This exam is worth 25% of your total grade.

b. Knox Project/research and writing. Your investigative assignment and writing section will assigned during the semester. Investigation related work is worth 20% of your total grade. Your writing section will also be worth 30% of your total grade. Therefore, the Knox project is worth 50% of your final grade.

c. Class participation in discussion and dialogue is worth 25%.

In line with the school of Liberal Arts policy, the following grading scale will be used:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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</tbody>
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There will be no make-up exams or extension of paper deadlines without a written doctor’s excuse. Late submission of papers will be penalized.

2. Integrity – I draw your attention to the University’s policy on plagiarism as outlined in the student handbook. Plagiarism is illegal in the world outside college, and will not be tolerated in the academic world either. College-level writing frequently requires you to use a variety of sources. In this course, you will often use evidence from books, articles, and electronic resources to support points in your papers. If however, you use language, ideas, or information from another source without properly giving credit to that source, you have plagiarized. You must learn to cite sources correctly and to include footnotes. Any idea that is not your own must be cited (including those from class readings), giving the author and the page number (or website and date access), even if you do not quote the author. If you do not quote directly, you must learn to paraphrase the words of the author properly as well as providing correct documentation for his or her idea. Any papers that contain plagiarism will receive a zero. In addition, a letter
documenting the incident may be placed in the students file in the office of the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs. Plagiarism may also result in a failing grade for the course or the student may be reported to the student conduct committee. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense that can result in expulsion from the university. Be sure you have read and understand the Philadelphia University academic integrity policy, available in the student handbook.

D. Course Outline and Reading Requirements

**Week 1, (January 11)** - Introduction to course, overview of substance of course, rules and guidelines for course, papers and examinations Also introduction to concepts of justice – what is justice, distributive and procedural justice. Further you will be proved with your civil and criminal factual scenarios.

**Week 2, (January 18)** - Fundamental principles of the American legal system – structure of government, role of courts, court governance, judicial review, parts of the criminal justice system. We will also begin work on the Knox project which is ongoing throughout the course

Assignment: article and PPT on Blackboard

**Week 3, (January 25)** - Constitutional law and constitutional protections in the American legal system

Assignment: Law 101, pp 11-85

**Week 4, (February 1)** – American legal system, litigation process, civil procedure and the role of private law and private actions, including the enforcement of criminal law.

Assignment: Law 101, pp. 87-132 and, pp. 249-299

**Week 5 & 6. Part 1 (February 8 & 15)** – American legal system – criminal procedure, the exclusionary rule & sentencing

Assignment: Law 101, pp. 299-336 &
Assignment: Re Crim Pro-Mapp reading, Exclusionary rule reading & Powerpoint on BB
Re Sentencing - Michael Foucault’s Sparksnotes link on Discipline and Punish and Powerpoint on BB

**Week 8 (March 1)** – Mid-term examination

Week 9 (March 9) Review of Knox project to date & Fundamentals of the civil law system, origins of the civil law system.

Assignment: Review of Civil case fact scenario and real world applications & Article: A Primer on the Civil Law System (Apple & Deyling) on BB

Week 10 (March 15) - Spring Break

Week 11 (March 22) - The civil law system – continued

Week 12 (March 29) – Fundamentals of French legal system

Assignment: Courts, Law and Politics, pp. 177-206

Week 10, (April 5) – Knox project turn in outlines & French criminal justice process.

Assignment: Courts, Law and Politics, pp. 206-230

Week 11 (April 12) – French criminal justice process (continued)

Assignment: Courts, Law and Politics, pp. 230-248

Week 12, (April 19) – Introduction to Islamic legal system

Assignment: Handouts in class

Week 13, Part 1 (April 26) – Fundamentals of Islamic legal system; Islamic criminal justice system

Assignment: Handouts in class & Knox Project

F. Mail Policy

I will rely very heavily on e-mail communication and will only correspond to your university address. You must check your E-mail every day

G. Attendance

The papers and exam will incorporate ideas discussed in class, rather than asking you to repeat back what you have learned in the readings. Therefore, students who do not come to class on a regular basis are in serious danger of failing. If you come to class late, it is your responsibility to make sure I have marked you present. However, students who repeatedly come late to class will be marked as absent.

G. Participation
To do well and keep pace, it is essential you meet deadlines and carefully consider what you read and write. Preparation for meaningful participation is required for all course activities. Please be aware that this course is a working seminar. This means that everyone must come to class having read the assigned readings, prepared to discuss them fully, raise questions and perhaps to rethink the issues involved. The class is interactive and not lecture-based; a significant portion of your learning will come from ideas you exchange with your fellow students. By joining this class you are making a commitment to participate fully.

H. Technology statement

Please be considerate and make sure that for each class you have turned off your cell phone, pagers, all types of “berries” and other potential distracting gadgetry. **THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO TEXT MESSAGING OR PHONE CALLS ALLOWED DURING CLASS.**

I. Electronic Communication

You are required to use the university e-mail account to communicate with me and other students. You may be required to submit assignments to me via e-mail and you will be asked to use blackboard. Make sure your university e-mail account is in working order.

*Please note: the Syllabus and Assignments are subject to Change*