Court Systems and Practices
CRIJ 1306
Fall 2011
Three (3) Semester Hours Credit

Instructor: R. Wes Clogston

Instructor Contact Information:

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Preferred E-mail: wesclogston@sbcglobal.net

Office location and hours
Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. You do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and just to discuss course topics.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The course will provide an introduction to the many elements of the Judiciary in the criminal justice system; structure of the American Court System; prosecution; right to counsel; pretrial release; grand juries; adjudication process; type and rules of evidence and sentencing.

PURPOSE:
To establish a foundation for the understanding of the working and procedures of the judicial system to include issues involving:
- Challenges dealing with terrorism suspects
- Standard crimes such as burglary, robbery, and homicide.
- Concerns as to the legality and application of the PATRIOT ACT.
- Procedures involving search, seizure, entry of evidence, and retaining the civil rights of our citizens while at the same time protecting them from crime.
- Understanding the adversarial nature of our legal system.
- How court decisions affect the law and its application.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Describe and explain the history, philosophy and ethical considerations of the judicial system.
- Define the nature and impact of courts on society and how it is integrated into the criminal justice system.
- Identify and describe the components of the judicial system and each of their functions.

TEXTBOOKS:
The textbook listed below is required and will be used for the course:

METHOD OF EVALUATION:
The course will have four major examinations and there will be a research paper on topics for critical analysis utilizing criminal justice journals, outside sources, and on-line sources covering major topics of the course. The dates for them will be shown on the schedule attached to the course information.

The four examinations and the research paper will be graded on a 100 point scale. Each will account for 20% of student’s grade this average will be computed with the following value:

100-90 …..A
89-80 …..B
79-70 …..C
69-60 …..D
59-0 …….F

Each exam and written assignment will stand on its own covering unique material; therefore, the FINAL EXAM will NOT be comprehensive in nature.

Students will be required to take examinations on the dates and time scheduled. Should an extreme emergency occur, i.e. hospitalization, death in family, etc., you are required to notify the course instructor prior to the test date and time for approval. If approval is given, a makeup exam will be taken at the earliest time possible, and in no instance will it be more than one week after the scheduled test date. All make-up exams are essay in nature.

All major examinations will cover the materials dealt with in class notes, textbook, online material, and information given by guest speakers. The exams may consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. The test will be graded, returned to the student for reviewed in class.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:
Each student will be expected to read the assignments prior to class meetings to facilitate class discussion.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS RESEARCH PAPER:
Each student will complete a three to five page (3-5) research paper utilizing APA writing format, with a minimum of three (3) references. References for the research paper will from Criminal Justice Journals, outside sources, and on-line sources. I will accept late papers, but with a five (5) point per calendar day penalty, so do not procrastinate in the preparation of this assignment.

The topic of the research paper will be:

- Your choice of a case heard by the Supreme Court within the last ten[10] years.
- Identifying the charges against the defendant/defendants.
- Brief summary of the findings of the trial court
- Where the case was appealed to and what the grounds for appeal were.
- Findings of the appeals court
Instructional Methods

As an instructor, I want my students to be successful. I feel that it is my responsibility to provide you with knowledge concerning the field of Courts and Criminal procedures, modeling good teaching strategies, and organizing and monitoring the field experience that allows you to connect the information that you learn in this course to the real world of Law Enforcement.

As a student wanting to learn about the field of Criminal Justice, it is your responsibility to read the textbook, submit assignments on the due dates, study for the exams, participate in classroom activities, attend class, and enjoy yourself while experiencing the real world associated with criminal justice.

As I believe that engaging the students in the learning is essential for teaching to be effective, you will spend the majority of class time involved in collaborative activities. You will be involved in discussions with your classmates and your instructor. As you will want to contribute to these discussions, you will need to come to class prepared to discuss, analyze and evaluate information from your text and other assigned readings.

Student Assignments
Assignments have been developed that will enhance your learning. To better understand a topic, you will be given assignments on key information that you will need to remember for your success in your career as an educator. Students will be required to successfully complete the following:

HCC Policy Statement - ADA
Services to Students with Disabilities
Students who require reasonable accommodations for disabilities are encouraged to report to Dr. Becky Hauri at 713-718-7910 to make necessary arrangements. Faculty is only authorized to provide accommodations by the Disability Support Service Office

HCC Policy Statement: Academic Honesty
A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcement roles. You are expected to be familiar with the University's Policy on Academic Honesty, found in the catalog. What that means is: If you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you. Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by College System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. “Scholastic dishonesty”: includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.
Cheating on a test includes:

- Copying from another students’ test paper;
- Using materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating with another student during a test without authorization;
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test that has not been administered;
- Bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered.

Plagiarism means the appropriation of another’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own written work offered for credit.

Collusion mean the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 or F in the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System. (See the Student Handbook)

HCC Policy Statements

Class Attendance - It is important that you come to class! Attending class regularly is the best way to succeed in this class. Research has shown that the single most important factor in student success is attendance. Simply put, going to class greatly increases your ability to succeed. You are expected to attend all lectures regularly. You are responsible for materials covered during your absences. Class attendance is checked daily. Although it is your responsibility to drop a course for nonattendance, the instructor has the authority to drop you for excessive absences.

If you are not attending class, you are not learning the information. As the information that is discussed in class is important for your career, students may be dropped from a course after accumulating absences in excess of 12.5% hours of instruction. The six hours of class time would include any total classes missed or for excessive tardiness or leaving class early.

You may decide NOT to come to class for whatever reason. As an adult making the decision not to attend, you do not have to notify the instructor prior to missing a class. However, if this happens too many times, you may suddenly find that you have “lost” the class.

Poor attendance records tend to correlate with poor grades. If you miss any class, including the first week, you are responsible for all material missed. It is a good idea to find a friend or a buddy in class who would be willing to share class notes or discussion or be able to hand in paper if you unavoidably miss a class.

Class attendance equals class success.

HCC Course Withdrawal Policy

If you feel that you cannot complete this course, you will need to withdraw from the course prior to the final date of withdrawal. Before, you withdraw from your course; please take the time to meet with the instructor to discuss why you feel it is necessary to do so. The instructor may be able to provide you with suggestions that would enable you to complete the course. Your
success is very important. Beginning in fall 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting first time entering freshmen to no more than SIX total course withdrawals throughout their educational career in obtaining a certificate and/or degree.

To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor may “alert” you and HCC counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. It is your responsibility to visit with your professor or a counselor to learn about what, if any, HCC interventions might be available to assist you – online tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc. – to stay in class and improve your academic performance.

If you plan on withdrawing from your class, you MUST contact a HCC counselor or your professor prior to withdrawing (dropping) the class for approval and this must be done PRIOR to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. **Final withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length, please visit the online registration calendars, HCC schedule of classes and catalog, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC counselor to determine class withdrawal deadlines. **Remember to allow a 24-hour response time when communicating via email and/or telephone with a professor and/or counselor. Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline. If you do not withdraw before the deadline, you will receive the grade that you are making in the class as your final grade.

Repeat Course Fee
The State of Texas encourages students to complete college without having to repeat failed classes. To increase student success, students who repeat the same course more than twice, are required to pay extra tuition. The purpose of this extra tuition fee is to encourage students to pass their courses and to graduate. Effective fall 2006, HCC will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

Classroom Behavior
As your instructor and as a student in this class, it is our shared responsibility to develop and maintain a positive learning environment for everyone. Your instructor takes this responsibility very seriously and will inform members of the class if their behavior makes it difficult for him/her to carry out this task. As a fellow learner, you are asked to respect the learning needs of your classmates and assist your instructor achieve this critical goal.

Use of Camera and/or Recording Devices
As a student active in the learning community of this course, it is your responsibility to be respectful of the learning atmosphere in your classroom. To show respect of your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices, and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive permission from the instructor.
Use of recording devices, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations.

**Instructor Requirements**

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness and make up
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

To be successful in this class, it is the student’s responsibility to:

- Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams:
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts and all assignments
- Complete the field study with a 70% passing score

**CLASS SCHEDULE ON ATTACHED PAGE**

*Class Schedule CRIJ 1306*
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Assignments – Carlson 7th Edition</th>
<th>Reading Assignments: Carlson 7th Edition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M August 29</td>
<td>M October 24</td>
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<td>W August 31</td>
<td>W October 26</td>
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<td><strong>M September 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mock Trial</strong></td>
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<td>W September 7</td>
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<td>M September 12</td>
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<td>W September 28</td>
<td>W November 9</td>
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<td>M October 3</td>
<td><strong>Exam II Chapters 4-6</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Critical Analysis paper</strong></td>
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<td><strong>M December 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final Exam Chapters 10 &amp; 11</strong></td>
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* Schedule may be altered to accommodate guest speaker scheduling or unforeseen delays.