West Los Angeles College

Department of Administration of Justice

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(310) 287-426

ADM Justice 4: Principle & Procedures of the Justice System

Spring 2014 Section: 8012 3 units (CSU)

Course Description: This course provides an in-depth study of the justice system from incident investigated by law enforcement to final disposition and settlement in court. Special emphasis on the court system which will include: the history, concepts and services related to judicial organization, court functions, prosecutorial functions, management and administration of the courts, and a comparison of the federal and state system.

Required Text:

Courts and Criminal Justice in America
by Larry J. Siegel; Frank Schmalleger; John L. Worrall
Publisher: Prentice Hall
Copyright Year: 2011

Student Learning Outcome (SLO):

- Identify and demonstrate laws of arrest and use of force as defined in procedural statutes, case law, constitutional law and other applicable rules.
- Have a thorough understanding of the court arraignment process in both felony and misdemeanor cases.
- The student will also gain an understanding of the various applicable due process time lines reference in custody and out of custody defendants.
- Thoroughly understand the preliminary hearing process and the standard of proof
- Differentiate between the type of case investigated by the grand jury for indictment and the type of case issued through the normal complaint process.
- Identify the various motions that can be taken by the prosecution and the defense during the course of judicial
proceedings from point of arrest to final adjudication.

- Understand the purpose and function of the plea bargaining process plus other alternatives to trial.
- Organize into appropriate order the following jury trial steps: jury selection, prosecutions case-in-chief, witness testimony, marking exhibits/evidence, motions, defense case-in-chief, rebuttal testimony, jury instructions, deliberations, verdict, sentencing and appeals.

There will be a variety of assignments for the class this semester to accommodate different learning styles. All assignments must be well written, and they will be graded on their composition as well as on their content. **All assignment must be turn in via ETUDES** and you will need access to a computer with Internet service. Computers are available in the campus library (HLRC), college computer labs, with connections to the Internet are reasonably accessible, and available on campus.

**Participation:** Each student has the responsibility to participate in each and every class discussion. The instructor takes no responsibility for conveying information to students who are not in attendance or participating. Field trips may be required.

- Ensuring all assignments will be turned into the instructor on time.
- Completing weekly reading assignments.
- Completing Weekly Discussion Questions
- Completing other assignments as assigned.

**Discussion Assignments:** Weekly discussion assignments must be posted in the discussion shell no later than the indicated day and time of the week assigned. I will not accept these via email. Discussions must be posted in the correct thread i.e., week one discussion question in week one discussion classroom thread in order to be scored. Postings placed in the wrong discussion room thread will not be graded and will not be scored. No Late discussion postings after due date and times.

Grading will be based on your substantive context and collaboration with the class in the discussion. You must respond to the discussion question and then to two or more (based on the number of required postings) of your classmates posting per discussion question to receive full credit. You must meet the posting requirements as indicated not all in one day but an average per day based on the required posting. Posting all in one day is not considered participations.

**Attendance:** The course week is Monday - Friday. A student who fails to participate in the classroom during a course week will be deemed absent for that week. The absence will be annotated as absent unexcused (AU), unless the instructor has been informed beforehand and deemed the absence as absent excused (AE). A student who has not completed assignments, exams, and discussion question or has not participated for three (3) consecutive days regardless if the absences were deemed AU or AE may be recommended for administrative withdrawal to the main campus. Each incomplete assignment (including discussions/exams) is considered as a day absent. More than three (3) absences a student will be blocked or excluded from the course. Private messages sent to the instructor during a "course week" without actual classroom participation will not count as classroom participation or attendance.

In a traditional classroom just because a student contacts the instructor and is excused from a scheduled class meeting does not mean the student is given credit for participation or attendance. The student is still annotated as AU or AE. The online classroom shall be no different in this respect. It is the instructor's sole discretion as to what s/he shall consider AU or AE.

**Withdraw:** It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Instructors have no obligation to withdraw students who do not attend courses, and may choose not to do so. Those who do not withdraw are subject to receive an "F". Please read withdrawal policy, which can be found in the WLAC catalog.
Cheating and Plagiarism: Written work that you hand in is assumed to be original unless your source material is documented appropriately. Using the ideas or words of another person, even a peer, or a web site, as if it were your own, is plagiarism. Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offenses. Students should read the section on cheating and plagiarism in the WLAC catalog.

Extra Credit (EC): No EC.

Make-up Policy: No assignment or exams will be accepted after the indicated due date and time. Consider not waiting until the day the assignment is due to submit.

Communication: It is expected that all students check their emails, private messenger, and announcements on a regular basis. Important information such as assignments, class cancellations, and changes in course material may be relayed via email. Only communicate with the instructor via private message, not via email.

Private messages is to be used to communicate with others in a professional manner. The ready access to instant communication, however, can sometimes result in inappropriate content. This primarily refers to students sending messages to the Professor or Teachers Assistant while they are upset about course related issues. I would strongly encourage everyone to use the "one day rule" when sending emails that might be considered inappropriate. Either wait "one day" until "cooler heads prevail" and then communicate with the Professor.

I will not provide feedback about exams via email. Any such questions or consultation must take place in person during my office hours.

Grading Criteria: Grading will be on the point system. We will cover one chapter each week, weekly quiz on the current chapters, 10 questions from each chapter total of 10 points. Each quiz is made up of questions taken from the textbook. The quiz will be available starting on Friday and must be completed by Sunday 11:55pm of the same week. Once you start the quiz you will have 10 minutes to complete.

A = 100-90%  B = 89-80%  C = 79-70%  D = 69-60%  F = 59-0%
*Note: In order to calculate your grade, add up the total points you receive and divide that by possible points for the course.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, students requesting accommodation must register with the Office of Disabled Students Programs & Services. For information and assistance please dial (310) 287 4450.

**Syllabus Change Policy: This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Assignment

16 Weekly Discussion @10 points each

5 Writing Assignments @ 25 points each

Weekly Quizzes @ 10 points each

Final Exam

Week 1 & 2

Part 1: FOUNDATIONS
Chapter 1      Legal Foundations
Quiz #1

Chapter 2     Who Controls the Courts?
Quiz #1

Writing Assignment

Week 3 & 4

Part 2: TYPES OF COURTS

Chapter 3     Federal Courts
Quiz

Chapter 4     State Courts
Quiz

Week 5 & 6

Chapter 5     Juvenile Courts
Quiz

Chapter 6     Specialized Courts
Quiz

Writing Assignment

Week 7 & 8

Part 3: THE PEOPLE INVOLVED

Chapter 7     Judges
Quiz

Chapter 8     Prosecutors
Quiz

Writing Assignment

Week 9 & 10
Chapter 9  Defense Attorneys

Quiz

Chapter 10  Defendants and Victims: Their Roles and Rights

Quiz

Writing Assignment

Week 11 & 12

Part 4: THE COURT PROCESS

Chapter 11  Arrest and Beyond

Quiz

Chapter 12  Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas

Week 13 & 14

Chapter 13  The Jury and the Trial

Chapter 14  Sentencing, Appeals, and Habeas Corpus

Writing Assignment

Week 15 & 16

Part 5: CURRENT ISSUES AND THE FUTURE OF COURTS

Chapter 15  Differential Treatment and Wrongful Convictions

Chapter 16  Technology, Alternatives, and the Future

Final Exam, no make-up exam