CJ 261W.09
Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
CID 6425
Fall 2007

Professor: Cutty T. Gilbert, M.A.
Office: A-173 A
Phone: (936) 294-3755
E-Mail: Cutty@shsu.edu
Class Hours: Monday 6 - 8:50 p.m.
Classroom: A-115
Office Hours: Monday 3 – 6 p.m.; Also by Appointment.

Required Readings

Student Study Guide (optional)

Course Description
This is an introductory criminal justice course designed to expose students to the diverse and complex criminal justice system. Students will acquire a thorough and comprehensive understanding of crime and justice in the United States, and will be encouraged to share viewpoints, opinions, and ask questions when discussing topics in class.

Course Objectives
The primary objectives of this course are:
1. Introduce the students to the laws, procedures, and policies involved in processing an offender through the criminal justice system.
2. Allow students to develop an understanding of roles and responsibilities of various officials involved in the court system processing offenders.
3. Examine the police role, the judicial system function, and the correctional techniques used in dealing with offenders and how the judicial system functions in Texas.
4. Familiarize the students with the public’s attitudes toward the offender and the resulting changes in laws, system policies, and legal practice.
5. Give students an orientation and practical experience on writing a paper with proper format.

Course Requirements
There will be a mid-term and final exam – 50 points each for a total of 100 points. Each exam will include multiply choice, true/false and essay questions, including a bonus question from subjects mentioned in the lecture. There will be 10 pop quizzes with short essays, for a total of 100 points. The exams and pop quizzes will count 50% of your grade. In addition, there will be a research paper 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced. Students are expected to send a digital copy of their paper via email to the instructor on December 3rd, 2007 in addition to hand delivering a hard copy of your paper on December 3rd, 2007 to the Professor during the class period specified in the class schedule. The research paper and short essays on pop quizzes will count 50% of your grade.
LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
Early papers will be accepted.

The papers and short essays will comprise 50% of the final grade. A more detailed description of the writing assignments will be handed out in class.

**Grading Policy**
- Mid-term Exam 50 points
- Final Exam 50 points
- Pop Quizzes (w/short essay) 100 points (50 points questions, 50 points short essay)
- Research paper 100 points
- Class participation will be considered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>300 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 90 – 100</td>
<td>290 – 300</td>
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<tr>
<td>B 80 – 89</td>
<td>280 – 289</td>
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<tr>
<td>C 70 – 79</td>
<td>270 – 279</td>
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<tr>
<td>D 60 – 69</td>
<td>260 – 269</td>
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<tr>
<td>F 59 – below</td>
<td>below 259</td>
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Grades will be entered on the student’s Blackboard file. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor the accuracy of the grades and absences. Please do not ask how many absences you have. It is your responsibility to know.

**MAKEUP EXAM POLICY**
- **No** make-up exams will be given unless arrangements have been made prior to the examination date.
- **Makeup exams must be taken one week from original test date, or will NOT be given.**
- LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

**ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION:**
Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. It is expected that students will attend EACH class session, complete reading and homework assignments, participate in-group exercises, and contribute to class discussions. Throughout the course of the semester, a student is allowed a maximum of one unexcused absence (three hours). Students missing more that one class session will subject to having their final grade lowered one full letter grade for each unexcused absence, pursuant to the instructor’s discretion on student’s full semester attendance record.

**CLASS BEHAVIOR:**
Some of the substance of this course is likely to be controversial in nature. When asked to articulate moral or ethical thoughts on various matters, people often present a dogmatic or ideological position akin to a religious belief system. At times our discussions will force us to examine ideas that are repugnant to such belief systems. In the best scenario, we will do so with an open mind welcoming the opportunity to set one belief system beside another gaining insight from the comparative perspective. In the worst scenario, we will become defenders of our beliefs and/or enemies of alternative belief systems.
Students in this class will be challenged to welcome and embrace diversity of opinion. Personal attacks against another person's belief system will not be tolerated. They will be identified as such by the professor (or any other class participant who senses that discussions have moved to a personal level) and stopped. Students who continue to engage in personal level challenges will first be counseled by the professor; but may ultimately be dropped from the class.

Talking amongst each other, reading a newspaper, magazine or eating will not be tolerated. You may be excused from the class for any of the above disruptions.

**ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS OR YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND COUNTED ABSENT**

**NO LAPTOPS IN CLASS WITHOUT APPROVAL BY INSTRUCTOR**

**IF YOU WALK OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS AND DO NOT RETURN WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME, YOU WILL BE COUNTED ABSENT.**

**Academic Honesty:**
http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.htm1#dishonesty

**Disabled Student Policy**
http://www.shsu.edu/schedule

**Services for Disabled Students**
http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy**
http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticcrequirements.html#holyday

**Important dates to Remember:**
- **August 20:** First Day of Class
- **September 3:** Labor Day Holiday
- **September 5:** 12th Class day; Last day for dropping without a “Q” and receive 100% refund.
- **September 14:** Last day for dropping half-semester courses without grade of F.
- **October 8:** Mid-Term Exam
- **October 10:** Last day for dropping Fall Semester course without grade of F. Last day for resignations without receiving a mark of W.
- **November 21, 22 & 23:** Thanksgiving Holiday
- **December 3:** Research Paper due
- **December 7:** All campus Study Day
- **December 10:** Final Exam
# COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ASSIGNED READINGS</th>
<th>ISSUES OF DISCUSSION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Class; What is Criminal Justice?</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>The Crime Picture</td>
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<td><strong>September 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Labor Day Holiday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Labor Day Holiday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<td>September 17</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Speaker – Policing: Purpose and Organization</td>
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<td>September 24</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Policing: Legal Aspects</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Policing: Issues and Challenges – <em>Mid-term Review</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td><strong>MID – TERM EXAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>MID – TERM EXAM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Courts and the Courtroom Work Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>The Criminal Trial - Speaker from District Attorney’s office</td>
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<td>October 29</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Sentencing</td>
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<td>November 5</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Probation, Parole and Community Corrections</td>
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<td>November 12</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Prison and Jails</td>
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<td>November 19</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Prison Life</td>
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<td>November 26</td>
<td>Library Night</td>
<td>Meet at Library to work on Research papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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**THE ABOVE SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE, AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE PROFESSOR’S DISCRETION**