SYLLABUS

CJ294.01

THE COURTS AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

FALL 2007

Professor: Kelly T. Weeks, J.D.
Board Certified-Criminal Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization
Office: CL23
Phone: 294-3646
E-Mail: ktw001@shsu.edu
Class Hours: Wednesday 6-8:50 p.m.
Classroom: A213
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:00-4:00 p.m. and Tuesday 9:00-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment


COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines the substantive law of evidence in Texas relating to criminal trials, as well as procedural matters from pretrial proceedings to trials and concluding with jury verdicts. We will also review arrest, and search and seizure law using the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and the rules of evidence

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The student will possess a basic understanding of:
1. the role of trial and appellate courts
2. the role of the public prosecutor
3. the role of the defense attorney
4. the pretrial release system
5. the formal charging process
6. the criminal trial process
7. the rules of courtroom evidence
8. search, seizure and arrest procedures
ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance will be recorded pursuant to University policy. MORE THAN TWO (2) ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN FAILURE OF THE COURSE. This rule applies to all absences, excused and unexcused. It is the responsibility of the student to sign the roll sheet. Failure to sign the roll sheet will be considered as an absence. Falsely signing the roll sheet will result in an automatic failure of the course.

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL:

The material in this course is cumulative. To fully understand one issue, the student must master the preceding material. Students should complete the reading assignments by the dates specified in the course schedule in order to participate meaningfully in class discussion.

GRADING POLICY:

Exam 1  100 points
Exam 2  100 points
Exam 3  100 points
Exam 4  100 points

Class participation will be considered
Total  400 points

A  90-100  360-400
B  80-89  320-359
C  70-79  280-319
D  60-69  240-279
F  59 or below below 240

ANNOTATED OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE COVERD FOR EACH CLASS MEETING:

Class meeting will be a mixture of lecture and class discussion. Other reading assignments will be assigned in class or posted on the blackboard. The topics examined will be as follows:

Note: CH references are to the Hanley, et al. textbook. CCP references are to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Evid. References are to the Texas Rules of Evidence.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

Aug. 22 Introduction to course procedures CCP Chap.1,2,01-2.11
The American and Texas Court Systems Chap.1, Chap. 2
Aug. 29 Search and Seizure CH 3,
Arrest Chapter 14,15 18 of CCP
Warrantless Arrest

Sept. 5 Confessions
Exclusionary Rule

Sept. 12 Test & Review

Sept. 19 Grand Jury
Charging Decision

Sept. 26 Pretrial release-bail
Pretrial motions and practice

Oct. 3 Pleas and Trial Overview

Oct. 10 The Real Deal- What really happens
In court – Prosecution and Defense

Oct. 17 Review & Test

Oct. 24 Rules of Evidence

Oct. 31 Hearsay
Physical & Scientific Evid.

Nov. 7 Review and Exam

Nov. 14 Witnesses, Opinions, Documentary
And Privileges
Nov. 28  Mitigation, Sentencing and Appeals  CH 15  
Art. 37.071 and 37.0711 of  
CCP  
Chapter 44 of CCP  
Rules of Appellate Procedure 21 to 23 and 31

Dec. 5  Special Issues, Discussion and Review

Dec. 12  
8p.m.-10 p.m.   Final Exam

ACADEMIC HONESTY: This course will be conducted pursuant to the University rules regarding academic honesty which can be read at the following web address:  
http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY: Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Please refer to the following website for additional information:  
http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS:  http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html

RELIGIOUS DAYS: see the following website:  
http://www.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday