

CCJS 331 Contemporary Legal Policy Issues
Fall 2007 Semester – 3 Credits
Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM
Professor Daniel Bell
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Course Description:

Students will be introduced to a wide range of contemporary legal issues. They will develop skills in analytical thinking through reading assignments and class discussions. Student will learn to brief cases using the IRAC method. Participation in classroom discussions involving controversial topics will enable students to acquire an appreciation for courteous debate. Guest speakers will augment the experience by presenting views on either side of the respective topics, giving students an opportunity to ask questions and present views.

Required Reading (selected portions):

Katsh, Ethan. Rose, William (2006) Taking Sides; Clashing Views on Legal Issues (12 ed.). Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw - Hill

Hickey, Thomas J. (2006) Clashing Views in crime and Criminology, (7th ed.). Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw - Hill

Office Hours:

By appointment and immediately after class – Tuesdays and Thursdays. Office hours will be held in Room 5101 in Building III.

Course Methodology:

The course will consist of reading assignments, case briefing, and topic discussion using the Socratic method. The course may also include visual aids, guest lectures, and a field trip to the Montgomery County District Court. Students are responsible for all assignments from texts as well as those handed out in class. Students are expected to arrive on time for class. Class participation is an integral component of the learning objectives for this class. Chronic lateness, absences without excuse, or failure to participate in class will reflect negatively on the final grade.

Grading:

Grading has been designed to allow the student an optimal opportunity for success in this class. Grading will consist of the following.

1. Two take home writing assignments - 3 Pages, 15 points each – 30 points total
2. Class Participation – 20 points total
3. 2 Pop Quizzes - Based on Reading – 20 points total
4. Final Paper - Approved topic – 6-10 pages, 30 points total

- Graded on Content, Grammar, Organization, Analysis, Creativity
- In class workshop on writing and citation will be scheduled

Grading as follows:

90-100 = A
80-90 = B
70-80 = C
60-70 = D
0-60 = F

Assignments:

Assignments: Assignments are due by the end of class on the scheduled dates. Any assignments that are not turned in by the end of class are considered late. Points will be deducted from late assignments at a rate of 10 points (1 letter grade) per day.

Academic Integrity:

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards in this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>.

Academic dishonesty of any kind will NOT be tolerated. All students are expected to abide by University rules governing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty encompasses behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc. Any cheating will be immediately turned over to the Office of Judicial Programs.

To further exhibit your commitment to academic integrity, remember to sign the Honor Pledge on all examinations and assignments: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

Classroom Disruptions:

The success of this class depends both on my ability as an instructor and on the classroom environment that we are able to create. We need to work together to create a positive environment conducive to learning. As a Department and a University, we expect the faculty and the students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students of opportunities to learn.

The University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruptions as "behavior that a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the code of conduct of a class." Examples include coming in late, repeatedly leaving or entering the classroom without authorization, making loud or distracting noises, and persisting in speaking without being recognized. As the instructor of this class, I also find the following distracting: ringing cellular phones/beepers, reading outside material, sleeping, and side conversations. Please turn off ringers on cell phones and beepers during class.

General Information on Center for Academic Success

The Center for Academic Success (CAS) offers onsite academic assistance for students attending classes at the Shady Grove Center.

Here's what CAS can do for you:

- Run your paper by a professional writing consultant (in person or over the phone)
- Find an individual tutor for a course you could use a boost in
- Take advantage of weekly reviews, called Guided Study Sessions (GSS), in business, social work, psychology, nursing and other areas led by peer tutors who aced the class last year and who knows the ropes
- Offer workshops in speed reading, memory strategies or textbook reading strategies that could save you hours of time and reduce your stress level
- Have a session with your personal academic trainer to see how you can do more work with less time
- Help you tackle and conquer writing snags with grammar assistance handouts, online exercises (with answers) and software programs on our computers

*For instruction on how to submit papers for phone tutoring, please visit the website at www.shadygrove.umd.edu/resources/cas

Contact information:

SG Bldg. 3, 1st floor, Student Services suite (301) 738-6315; Email: sg-cas@umd.edu
Dr. Marsha Youngblood, Associate Director

Hours:

MW 9:00 - 5:30
Tues 9:00 - 7:00
ThFri 9:00 - 5:00

(Other times by appt.)

Special Accommodations:

Please inform the instructor if you have a special need for any accommodation so that arrangements can be made.

Class Schedule and Assignments:

8/30 Course Introduction

How to IRAC case law

09/04 - 09/06 Issue - Should Serious Sex Offenders Be Castrated?

1. Text 1 - pgs - 141-160 - Discussion
2. Buck V Bell 274 U.S. 200 and Skinner v Oklahoma 316 US 535
Brief Cases

09/11 Issue - Is Capital Punishment Bad Public Policy?

1. Text 1 - 244 - 265 - Class Discussion

09/13 No homework

Writing Workshop

1st Take home writing assignment assigned

09/18 - /09/20 Issue - Should Behavior Modification Techniques be used to Brainwash Criminals?

1. Read Text 1 - 373 - 391 - Discussion
2. Movie Portions- “ A Clockwork Orange”, Stanley Kubrick. Discussion

Take home writing assignment due - 09/18

09/25 - 09/27 Issue - Abortion

1. Roe v. Wade 410 US 113 - Brief Case
2. Text 2 - Pgs 16-37 Brief Case - Planned Parenthood v Casey

10/02 Issue - Sharing of Music Files on the Internet

1. Read and Brief Napster - Pgs 74-87

Class Discussion

10/04 - 1. Field Trip - Montgomery County District Court - Class Meets at 1:00 at Courthouse

Final Paper Topics Chosen

10/09 - 10/11 Issue - Are Pretextual Stops by the Police Constitutional?

1. Text 2 - Pgs 118-132 - Guest speaker
2. Guest speaker

10/16 - 10/18 Issue - Are Laws Criminalizing Homosexual Conduct Unconstitutional?

1. Text 2 Pgs 302-323- Brief Cases
 2. Discussion
- 2nd Take home writing assignment

10/23 - 10/25 Final Paper 1st Draft
2nd take home writing assignment due

10/30 - 11/01 Issue - Are Blanket Prohibitions on Cross Burnings Unconstitutional?

1. Text 2 - Pgs 282 - 301
2. Free Speech Issues

11/06 - 11/08 Issue - Are Restrictions on Physician Assisted Suicide Constitutional?

1. Text 2 - Pgs 38 - 60
2. Discussion (guest)

11/13 - 11/15 Issue - Should Marijuana Be Legalized?

1. Text 1 Pgs 324 - 338, Guest Speaker
2. Guest speaker

11/20 - 11/27 Issue - Do More Guns Lead to Less Crime?

1. Text 1 Read Pgs 266-296
2. Guest Speaker and class handouts for homework

11/29 - 12/04 Homework assigned in Class.