Texas A&M University-Texarkana  
Criminal Justice/Sociology Program  

Course Syllabus*  
CJ 570: Seminar on Administration of Justice  
Fall Semester, 2010  

Tuesday, 7:00 to 9:45pm  
University Center, Room 232  

* Subject to amendment  

I. Locator Information:  

Professor:  Dr. Leonard W. Peck  
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice  
Office: Academic Bldg. 134N  
Office Hours: Mon. 1:00 – 6:00 pm  
Tues. 1:00 – 5:00 pm  
Wed. 1:00 – 6:00 pm  
Or drop by or make an appointment  
Phone: (903) 223-3011  
Fax: (903) 223-3107  
E-Mail: leonard.peck@tamut.edu. I answer class email 2-3 times per week on a triage basis (i.e. emergencies first).  

II. Course Description:  

Course identifies and discusses the roles of the key players in the judicial process. Course materials would include a discussion of the prosecutor’s office, selection and use of juries, selection of prosecutors and judges, plea negotiations, courtroom work group, representation of indigent defendants and other issues pertinent to the interpretation and applications of law.
III. Course Objectives:
Relevant to the above, the objectives of this course are:

1. To discuss the meaning of the concept of justice in an adversarial system.
2. To discuss the characteristics of an adversarial system of justice.
3. To discuss the roles of attorneys and judges in the process of administering justice.
4. To discuss the role of juries in court trials.
5. To discuss the selection of prosecutors and the various methods by which judges get on the bench.
6. To discuss the concept of plea negotiations and the arguments for and against this practice.
7. To discuss the make-up of the courtroom work group.
8. To discuss the methods used in representing indigent defendants.
9. To discuss the differences between the adversarial and accusatorial systems of justice.
10. To discuss the role of the police in a free society.

IV. Student Learner Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, students would be able to:

1. Understand the meaning and nature of “justice” within the American system of justice.
2. Understand the make-up and characteristics of an adversarial legal system.
3. Understand the power of the district attorney in the American system of justice.
4. Understand the role of politics and public opinion in the administration of justice.
5. Understand the relationship among social class, power, race, and gender in the administration of justice and in the perception of justice.

V. Textbooks:
The required texts for this course are:
1. Justice Blind? Ideals and Realities of American Criminal Justice (Third Edition) by Matthew Robinson ISBN (0-13-514774-3) and

VI. Course Evaluation & Grading Scale:
1. Mid-term Examination 30 points A 90 points
2. Final Examination 30 points B 80 points
3. Research Project 40 points C 70 points

Total points 100 points
VII. Schedule of Activities and Reading List:

Week 1: Introduction to the concept of “justice”.

Week 2: Chapter 1 text #1-What is the Criminal Justice System?
Chapter 1 text #2-Religious and Philosophical Perspectives of Justice

Week 3: Chapter 2 text #1-The Role of Politics in the Administration of Justice.
Chapter 2 text #2-Justice and the State

Week 4: Chapter 3 text #1-Equal Protection Under the Law
Chapter 3 text #2-Social Justice

Week 5: Chapter 4 text #1-Crime on the Streets and Crime in the Suites: Which is Worse?
Chapter 7 text #2-The American Style of Justice

Week 6: Chapter 5 text #1-Media Portrayals of Crime and Criminal Justice.
Chapter 12 text #2-Individual Strategies for Achieving Justice

**Mid-term Examination Handed Out.**

Week 7: Chapter 6 text #1-The Role of the Police in the Administration of Justice

**Mid-term Examination Due.**

Week 8: Chapter 7 text #1-Right to trial-Injustice in pre-trial and trial procedures.
Chapter 13 text #2-Organizations Seeking Justice.

Week 9: Chapter 8 text #1-The Fairness and Utility of Punishment.
Chapter 9 text #1-Lock’em up and Throw Away the Key.

Week 10: Chapter 10 text #1-Capital Punishment.
Chapter 11 text #1-The War on Drugs.

Week 11: Chapter 12 text #1-The War on Crime.

**Two-page Summary of Presentation Due.**

Week 12: Chapter 13 text #1-Achieving Justice: Some Recommendations.

**Students’ Presentations Start**

Week 13: Chapter 14 text #2-Global Justice.

**Students’ Presentations Conclude.**

**Final Examination Handed Out.**
VIII. Teaching Methodologies:

Since this is a graduate seminar, students are expected to read the texts on their own and take notes. Class lectures and discussions will not be limited to the issues and/or chapters covered in the texts. They will include any information that is relevant to administration of justice in general and in America. Visual and/or audio materials could be used where deemed necessary by the professor. The take home essay tests will comprise of class lectures, chapters of the texts, and other information the professor deems relevant to the course objectives and competencies.

IX. Research Project:

Students will be required to choose a critical issue in the administration of justice in a free society. Once approved by the professor, the student will research the issue thoroughly and then conduct an unbiased evaluation of the issue in light of the contemporary realities of administration of justice under an adversarial criminal justice system. The student will then make a formal presentation to the class demonstrating the following:

1. A clear understanding of the issue on the part of the student.
2. Why the issue is important in the American system of justice.
3. The extent to which the issue affects those who come in contact with the criminal justice system and those who participate in this process.
4. The social consequences/implications of the issue.
5. What society should do about this issue and why.

A week before the presentations begin, each student will turn in a typed two-page summary of his/her presentation and a complete list of the sources of information used to prepare the presentation.

X. Disability Accommodation:

Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling (903) 223-3062.

XI. Academic Integrity:

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or disciplinary actions." For additional information see the university policy manual.
XII. A&M-Texarkana Email Address:
Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

XIV. References:


