Criminal Court Systems
CRIM 3403
Spring 2009

Professor: Prof. Todd C. Hiestand
Email: tchiestand@mnu.edu
Office Location: Metz 207
Office Hours: MT 1:00pm-3:00pm and by appointment

Course Credit: 3 Hours
Class Day/Time: MWF 9:00am-9:50am
Class Location: Metz 228
Office Phone: (913) 971-3611

TEXTS


COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an analysis of the function and structure of the criminal court system in the United States, including the roles of prosecutor, defender, judge, jury, and court administrator. The issues confronting the system will be considered from historical, philosophical, sociological, and psychological perspectives. The ideals of the system will be compared with actual functioning and court reform proposals will be explored. Spring.

PREREQUISITES

None

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Written Assignments. Various written assignments will be made during the semester. These may include reaction papers and chapter discussion questions. These assignments will require a significant amount of reasoning and independent thought. The cumulative value of these assignments will be 50 points. These assignments must be turned in through the Blackboard digital dropbox.

Court-In-Action Exercise. Students will be required to visit a court conducting court business during the semester. Appropriate court business includes, but is not limited to: pre-trial hearings, sentencing, jury trial, bench trial, voir dire, etc. Students must attend court for a cumulative fifty minute time period. After attending court for the appropriate time period, students will be required to write a more than two less than three page summary paper discussing the experience. This assignment is due April 17th at 5pm and is worth 50 points. This assignment must be turned in through the Blackboard digital dropbox.

Jury Experience. Students will be required to act as mock jurors for the Business Law II mock trial. The trial will be conducted from 10am to Noon on April 22nd and 24th. Students will be required to attend all portions of the trial and will enter a verdict. This assignment is worth 25 points.
**A Trial By Jury Readings.** Throughout the course of the semester we will be reading *A Trial By Jury* by Burnett. Students will be required to take 9 quizzes over the material worth 10 points each. At the end of the semester students will turn in a more than one less than two page reaction paper due April 27th. This reaction paper is worth 10 points. The cumulative value of this assignment is 100 points.

**Exams.** There will be three (3) exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Exams will cover material from the text as well as class lectures and discussions. Students are responsible for studying the appropriate chapters as they will be tested on material not covered in class.

For a make-up test, the student must provide a proper reason and make arrangements to take the test before the next class period. If the student does not notify the professor prior to the test, or fails to make proper arrangements for a make-up test, the professor has the option of downgrading the test score. Extra credit is not an option.

**Final.** A cumulative final will be administered Friday, May 1st, 8:00am-9:50am. The exam will be worth 125 points.

**Class Participation.** Criminal Court Systems is an upper division class. Students are therefore substantially responsible for participating in class discussions. This involves engaging the professor and other students in the critical exploration of class concepts as well as the sharing of independent thought. In order to sustain a high level of class discussion it is vitally important that students be prepared to participate by completing readings and assignments on schedule. Class participation is evaluated by the professor and will be worth a total of 25 points.

**GRADING SYSTEM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>Points for Exams (3 x 100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Points for Final Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Points for Court-in-Action Exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Points for Written Assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Points for <em>A Trial By Jury</em> Quizzes and Reaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Points for Mock Jury Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Points for Class Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>675</strong></td>
<td>Total Points Possible</td>
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**Grading Scale:**

- **A+** 654 – 675 Points
- **A** 627 – 653 Points
- **A-** 607 – 626 Points
- **B+** 587 – 606 Points
- **B** 560 – 586 Points
- **B-** 540 – 559 Points
- **C+** 519 – 539 Points
- **C** 492 – 518 Points
- **C-** 472 – 491 Points
- **D+** 452 – 471 Points
- **D** 425 – 451 Points
- **D-** 405 – 424 Points
- **F** 404 Points or Less
ATTENDANCE POLICY (see MNU Catalog, page 28)

For every unexcused absence, beginning with the fourth, the student’s final grade will be reduced by 15 points. For purposes of this attendance policy only, students who are more than 15 minutes late for a given class period will be counted as absent for that class period. Excused absences consist of serious illness or university sponsored activities. Whether an absence is deemed excused or unexcused rests solely upon the discretion of the professor.

Students with perfect attendance will receive a 15 point increase in their final grade. For example, a student with 575 points (B) at the end of the semester with perfect attendance will have his or her grade raised by 15 points. As a result, the student’s grade will be raised from a B to a B+. For purposes of the perfect attendance bonus only, all absences are considered unexcused.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be turned into the BlackBoard digital dropbox at the beginning of class or that assignment will be deemed as late. Each late assignment will be reduced by 10 points per day the assignment is late. For example, if an assignment is due on Monday morning and the student turns in the assignment after the class period begins but before 5pm, that student’s grade on the assignment will be reduced by 10 points. If the student turns the assignment in after 5pm or on the following Tuesday, the grade will be reduced by 20 points. Assignments sent to my email address will be erased and will not be graded.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All work is expected to be the student’s own. No credit will be given for assignments or exams that have been plagiarized. Cheating and other dishonest behavior will result in an F for the assignment and will be reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

CITIZENSHIP

Students are expected to display appropriate levels of respect and courtesy. This includes turning off cell phones. If a cell phone rings during class, the student will lose points. Students are not allowed to surf the internet or use a cell phone for text messaging while in class. If a student uses a computer for purposes other than note-taking or engages in text messaging during class, the student will lose points. The professor reserves the right to ask students violating this policy to leave class. If this occurs, the student will be deemed as absent.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students needing special accommodation should notify the professor within the first two (2) weeks of class.
SIGNIFICANT DATES (TENTATIVE)

1/16  A Trial By Jury Preliminaries and Chapter 1 Quiz
1/26  A Trial By Jury Chapter 2 Quiz
1/30  Test 1
2/4   A Trial By Jury Chapter 3 Quiz
2/18  A Trial By Jury Chapter 4 Quiz
3/2   Test 2
3/6   A Trial By Jury Chapter 5 Quiz
3/23  A Trial By Jury Chapter 6 Quiz
3/30  A Trial By Jury Chapter 7 Quiz
4/6   Test 3
4/15  A Trial By Jury Chapter 8 Quiz
4/17  Court-in-Action Exercise Due by 5pm
4/20  A Trial By Jury Chapter 9 and Epilogue Quiz
4/22  Business Law II Jury 10am-Noon
4/24  Business Law II Jury 10am-Noon
4/27  Reaction to A Trial By Jury Due
5/1   Final Exam 8-9:50am
Alignment of Mission, Objectives, and Outcomes
MidAmerica Nazarene University

Term: Spring 2008  Class: Criminal Court Systems
Dept #: CRIM 3403  CRN: 50034
Professor: Todd Hiestand

Means of Assessment: Court in Action Exercise Paper (Rubric).

University Mission Statement:
The University provides a wide variety of intellectual, social, and religious activities that serve a developmental function in students. The ultimate goal is to develop broadly educated individuals with specific skill and career knowledge related to a potential field of work.

Related Division Mission:
The Division of Behavioral Sciences educates and develops students to be competent in academic disciplines focused on understanding human behavior, mental processes, social functioning and the institutional structures of society.

Course Objectives:
Have a firm grasp of the knowledge base, methods of inquiry, and scientific developments within the academic discipline of Criminal Justice.

Intended Educational (Student) Outcome or State Standards:
Students can describe the major processes at work in the criminal justice system.

Means of Assessment:
Court in Action Exercise Paper (Rubric).