

Sample Only
Not Currently in Use

CJI 0530
Legal Issues in Criminal Justice
Course Syllabus

Course Description: This course examines a variety of legal issues critical to a thorough understanding of the various aspects of the criminal justice system. Students will examine the United States Constitution and its interpretation through court decisions that together have formed the cornerstone of the criminal justice system nationwide. By becoming familiar with this material, it is expected that the student will be able to better predict and prepare to meet fundamental legal problems facing the criminal justice professional, such as: (1) Constitutional restraints on how the criminal justice system handles the investigation of crime; (2) Constitutional restraints on how the criminal justice system satisfies the legal requisites as to an individual's guilt; (3) Constitutional restraints on the punishment imposed.

Learning Objectives:

- (1) To introduce the student to the materials which establish the legal foundation of this nation's criminal justice system.
- (2) To instruct the student how to comprehensively read, analyze and use those materials in order to solve problems encountered by the criminal justice professional.
- (3) To understand the historical background of the operative legal constraints so that they may be applied to future factual scenarios encountered by the criminal justice professional.

Entrance Competencies: (1) A general understanding of the structure and design of the United States governmental system. (2) The ability to communicate accurately and effectively with written responses to short answer and essay style questions.

Exit Competencies: An understanding of (1) the constitutional structure and limitations that shape the United States criminal justice system, (2) familiarity with the principles contained in the leading constitutional decisions covered in the course, (3) familiarity with and understanding of basic legal terminology and principles and their application within the criminal justice setting.

Course Activities: Read and analyze the assigned material for each week/module. Use the assigned reading to post comments to the threaded discussion problems, participate in the on-line chats, and complete the quizzes as assigned. In addition, students must complete the midterm and final examinations. The deadlines for the required submissions for discussion problems, quizzes and examinations, along with the schedule for the on-line chats will be found on the WebCT course calendar.

Threaded Discussion Problems:

The threaded discussion problems are designed to be an open learning community experience. You should read the threaded discussion problem, the postings of fellow

students and my comments and questions. Your postings to the discussion thread can and should reflect on and respond to the overall discussion thread. Post responses as a reply, rather than “compose new message” as this creates a new thread. Credit will not be awarded for submissions as attachments (see further instructions under Quizzes, Midterm and Final Examination). The grade on the discussion aspect of the course will go towards the class participation aspect of your grade. Therefore, as long as you make a legitimate effort, “wrong” answers in the discussion area will not be counted against you.

On-Line Chat: This part of the course is designed to offer you an opportunity to interact with each other as if in a classroom setting. I will be there to answer questions related to the current module. Other questions or concerns that cannot be expected to benefit the class as a whole should be emailed to me directly and should not take up class discussion time in the on-line chat room. All chats will be recorded, saved, and emailed to those who attend and participate for use as a study aid. They will always take place in the Online Office.

Quizzes, Midterm and Final Examinations: The quizzes, midterm and final examinations will be emailed to you on the WebCT email system in accordance with the course calendar. You are responsible for meeting the deadlines for those submissions, which will also be posted on the course calendar. You should draft your answers using a word processing program, to avoid spelling and grammatical errors, but **do NOT submit your answers in an attached file**. Instead your submissions should be copied and pasted directly into an email message addressed to me. If it is sent as an attachment it will be returned to you, so that you can cut and paste into a message as instructed and may affect the timeliness of your submission. Submissions that are not timely can affect your grade at the instructor’s discretion. Be sure that you use only the WebCT email system for your submissions and always keep a copy of your work in your personal files. Credit will only be given for submissions with WebCT. Please keep in mind that while interaction is expected and encouraged through the class Discussions and On-Line Chat forums; your answers to the quizzes, midterm and final examinations should be your own work, not a community effort.

****If you have questions or problems relating to the use of the WebCT system, i.e., participating in the threaded discussions, on-line chats or submitting responses for the quizzes, please notify me immediately. The course is intense and moves quickly. As a result, proficiency in the WebCT system must be mastered early on.**

Students are graded on achievement, rather than solely on effort. It is the responsibility of each student to prepare for each class and to communicate at a level that leaves the instructor with a clear impression that the student understands the material or has exhausted efforts within the time allotted to maximize their understanding of the material covered.

Examples of quality participation include but are not limited to: 1) using points as raised by the authors in the textbooks to highlight or illustrate a particular question, argument, or issue; 2) drawing on one’s work or life experiences to make a point within the context of the topic, text, or assignment; or 3) asking relevant questions in a way that reveals what is understood so as to isolate what requires further clarification.

Course Requirements: (1) Timely completion of the assigned readings, (2) thoughtful, timely and consistent class participation, which is comprised of the personal statement, threaded discussion problems and on-line chat sessions, (3) and timely submission of the quizzes, midterm and final examinations.

Grading Criteria: The course grade will consist of the following segments: (1) Class participation (discussions and online chats) from each module will be averaged together and that average will consist of 30% of your grade; (2) The grades from the six quizzes will be averaged together and will consist of 30% of your grade; (3) The midterm grade will count as 15% of your grade and (4) the final examination will count as 25% of your grade.

Grade Point Value

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

F = Below 70

Course Materials:

Required Textbook:

Irving J. Klein, B.S., J.D. and Christopher J. Morse, B.A., J.D., *Constitutional Law for Criminal Justice Professionals* (2002)

Other Material:

Johnny C. Burris, *Legal Issues in the Criminal Justice System: Readings—Cases, Statutes, and Notes* (2003) (excerpts to be posted to the discussion board for the correlating module)

Suggested Readings:

Lawrence M. Friedman, *Crime and Punishment in American History* (1993)

Assigned Readings:

Module #1: Overview of constitutional law and the criminal justice system. (95 pgs.)

Module #2: (104 pgs.)

(A) State's Right to Arrest, Detain and Punish.

(B) Reserved Powers of the Tenth Amendment:

Module #3: Search and Seizure (Part 1) (110 pgs.)

Module #4: Search and Seizure (Part 2) (110 pgs.)

Module #5: (93 pgs.)

(A) Search and Seizure (Part 3)

(B) First Amendment

Module #6: Fifth Amendment-Prohibitions Against Government (111 pgs.)

Module #7: Sixth Amendment- Trial Guarantees (165 pgs.)

Module #8: Eighth Amendment-Prohibition Against Government (90 pgs.)

Module #9: (97 pgs.)

(A) Civil Rights in the Constitution

(B) Plea Bargaining

(C) Entrapment

Every student must check-in with the me, via the WebCT email system, *NO LATER THAN 14 days after the class has begun* or I will assume that you have dropped the course. During check-in, please include the following:

- Postal mailing address
- Telephone number
- Preferred email
- Preferred name or nickname

You are also required to set up your own personal home page within WebCT by clicking on “Study Tools” and then clicking on “Student Homepages.” Please include a brief biography titled “**Personal Statement**” and your preferred contact information, which will be available to the others in the class. This is to be completed **by day seven**.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Individual Student Responsibilities: Each student is accountable for both individual assignments (readings, papers, and exams) and a significant contribution to group activities (chat rooms and discussion problems). A student demonstrates accountability by completing all individual assignments in a timely manner and by attending and participating in all group activities. It is expected that students will perform professionally in preparing work for this class and maintain high standards of honesty and ethical behavior.

Faculty Responsibilities: The faculty is responsible for establishing a learning environment that encourages mutual trust and support to include theoretical content, synthesizing information, and encouraging students to apply the content of their learning to their workplace settings. The faculty guides, monitors, and evaluates the student’s progress and are available both in and out of class for consultation and feedback.

Academic Honesty: All individual assignments must represent the student’s original and independent work; therefore, academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes claiming another student’s work as one’s own, using published work without proper citations, and collaborating on exams or term papers. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F” for this course and will be subject to the full extent of Nova Southeastern University disciplinary procedures.

Late Assignments: Late assignments (missed deadlines for the midterm exam, final exam, discussion problem responses, and chats) will not be tolerated, as they disrupt the learning process of others and prevent the creation of effective dialogue between the student and the instructor regarding the development of student knowledge and skills throughout the course. Therefore:

- If you suspect that you may have difficulty with a deadline for a quiz, the midterm or final exam, it is to your benefit to contact me prior to the posting of said exam. Once quizzes and exams have been graded and returned, additional submissions cannot no longer be accepted. For that reason, it is best to contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements for such situations. It is within my discretion to deny credit for late submissions.

- Chat room attendance, for obvious reasons, cannot be made up.

Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance and participation in discussion problems and chats are required for two reasons: 1) attendance and participation assist in identifying and absorbing nuances inherent in the readings assignments, which will be ultimately assessed in the midterm and final examinations, discussion problems and chats; and 2) the quality of the class is contingent upon a student's ability to build on previous deliberations and analyses.

Incomplete Grades: It should be noted that students do not have a right to an incomplete grade; thus, incomplete grades will be granted only in cases of extreme hardship or emergency situations. Students requesting an incomplete grade must submit an email request to the instructor with full rationale before the last week of class. Should the instructor agree, all missed work is required to be submitted within 30 days following the last day of the course.