Reedley Community College

CRIM 4: Principles & Procedures of the Justice

FALL 2014

**Instructor: Tasha Cummings, M.A.**

**Office Hours: Office hours posted on Blackboard**

**Office Phone: (559) 638-3641 (Counseling Department)**

**Email: tasha.cummings@reedleycollege.edu**

**Course Description:** This course analyzes criminal law and its relationship to court proceedings in the United States. Additionally, the class introduces students to concepts such as: procedural rules, jurisdiction, classification and elements of crimes. It also focuses on the legal issues and constitutional interpretations involving extradition, arrest, search and seizure laws, admissions and confessions and other directives provided to law enforcement agencies.

**Course Credits/Class Hours: 3**

**Course Objectives**:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

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| 1. Assemble the various historical and developmental concepts of the United States and California criminal court procedures. 2. Critically analyze the hierarchy of the court systems. 3. Demonstrate the ability to use legal terminology, definitions, and theories of criminal law. 4. Understand the adversarial nature of the American courtroom 5. Identify the elements of a crime, the seriousness of the offense and the defendant's capacity to commit such crimes. 6. Explain and discuss the various criminal defenses, legal justifications, and burdens of proof. |

**Course Outcomes**:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

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| 1. Arrange the various components of the court system into proper sequence. 2. Discuss and describe the various stages in the trial process. 3. Understand and correctly use the vocabulary of the court room. 4. Identify key due process issues relating to the 6th, 8th, and 14th amendments to the United States Constitution. 5. Describe the history and application of the exclusionary rule in shaping criminal procedures. |

**Required Text and Materials**:

**Important Note**: Portfolio assignments are embedded in the required textbook. Students are encouraged to purchase or familiarize themselves with the campus resources available to them early on. Such acquisition of the required materials will increase the likelihood of successfully completing the course.

* *America’s Courts and the Criminal Justice System*, By David Neubauer & Henry Fradella, 11th edition.
* A folder with pockets will be required for the student portfolio.
* A red pen
* An 882-E scantron

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** RC complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request any accommodation for this course, please contact the Coordinator of Disabilities at (559) 638-3641 (DSP&S Department).

**Zero tolerance policy for Disruptive conduct in the classroom**

* The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity.
* He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College.
* Disruptive behavior in the classroom that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment is defined as:
  + **Offensive language;**
  + **Harassment of students or professors;**
  + **Repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught;**
  + **Failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum; and**
  + **Continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others: beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.**
* Students who are removed from class for disruptive behavior will not be allowed to return until the issue is resolved and may be administratively withdrawn from the course or the college.

**Academic Integrity Statement**

* Students guilty of academic dishonesty, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are responsible to the instructor of the class. Academic dishonesty is defined as but not limited to plagiarism and cheating.
* At the discretion of the instructor, students who cheat or steal work from another source will either (1) be dismissed from class with a grade of “F” or (2) receive a grade of “F” for the assignment/test. Some examples of plagiarism and cheating are using undocumented sources, copying work verbatim from the Internet, using someone else’s work, recycling work from another class, using unauthorized notes during an exam, and/or looking on a classmate’s test/paper.
* Additional disciplinary sanctions may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct.

**Grading Criteria**:

Student Portfolio *(chapter assignments - 5 points each)* 85 points

Quizzes *(chapter quizzes - 5 points each)* 85 points

Group Presentation 30 points

Final *(5 to 6 questions per chapter – 1 point each)* 100 points

TOTAL 300 points

**Grading Scale:**

A 90-100% 269-300 points

B 80-89% 239-268 points

C 70-79% 209-238 points

D 60-69% 179-208 points

F Below 60% below 179 points

**Attendance and Tardiness Policies:**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Excessive absences may result in the student being dropped. Ultimately, it is the student’s responsibility to officially drop a class in which he/she no longer wishes to be enrolled.

**Late Work Policy:** If absent, all work must be submitted by 11:59 PM on the day due. Acceptable forms of submission are Word attachments in an email or by dropping off the portfolio folder to Rosa Rios, Administration Building, (559) 638-3641 - no exceptions.

**Course & Homework Schedule:**

**Important Note**: The syllabus provides a general plan for the course. *Deviation from this plan may be necessary.*

**WEEK 1 Course Introduction**  **Chapter 1**

Oral Presentation/Term Paper Topics P. 24 #1-4

**Courts, Crime and Controversy**

**WEEK 2 Law and Crime Chapter 2** Classroom Discussion P. 52 #1-3

**WEEK 3 Federal Courts Chapters 3-4**

**State Courts** P. 86 #1-4

Classroom Discussion P. 118 #1-5

**WEEK 4 Courthouse Justice Chapters 5**

Classroom Discussion P. 144 #1-4

**WEEK 5 Prosecutors Chapters 6-7**

**Defense Attorneys** P. 170 #1-5

Classroom Discussion P. 194 #1-6

**WEEK 6 Judges Chapters 8**

Classroom Discussion P. 218 #1-5

**WEEK 7 Defendants and Victims Chapters 9**

Classroom Discussion P. 242 #1-4

**WEEK 8 Arrest to Arraignment Chapter 10**

Classroom Discussion P. 272 #1-7

**WEEK 9 Disposing and Suppressing Evidence Chapter 11**

Classroom Discussion P. 304 #1-5

**WEEK 10 Negotiated Justice and the Plea of Guilty Chapter 12**

Classroom Discussion P. 328 #1-3

**WEEK 11 Trials and Jury Chapter 13**

Classroom Discussion

P. 366 # 1-5

**WEEK 12 Visit a local courthouse and observe a case**

Library Research

**WEEK 13 Oral Presentations**

**WEEK 14 Sentencing Options Chapter 14** Classroom Discussion P. 397 #1-4

**WEEK 15 Sentencing Decisions Chapter 15**

Classroom Discussion P. 432 # 1-5

**WEEK 16 Appellate Courts Chapter 16**

Classroom Discussion P. 465 #1-4

**WEEK 17 Juvenile Courts Chapter 17**

Classroom Discussion P. 497 #1-6

**WEEK 18 Wednesday, December 10, 2014**

FINAL EXAMINATION