**Syllabus: Spring 2020**

George Mason University

Course Name: Introduction to Law and Society

Course Number: CRIM 220

Meeting Times: Thursday 7:20- 10:00

Meeting Location: Katherine Johnson Hall, room 132.

Instructor Name: **David Husar**

E-mail Address: dhusar@pwcgov.org

**This syllabus is a guide. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as needed.**

**Course Materials:**

* **Del Carmen, Rolando; Hemmens, Craig 2015. Criminal Procedure Law and Practice. Tenth Edition.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Surveys the fundamentals of criminal justice in society. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**GENERAL COURSE PURPOSE**

By providing students with fundamental knowledge of how the criminal justice system works, students may then discuss and debate what changes need to be made within that setting. Topics such cash for bail, immigration status, economic and racial discrimination, and mental health services are all evolving matters in the criminal justice system. This course is designed to provide students with a detailed understanding of how the criminal justice system affects and drives various issues in today’s society.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

* Two exams (40 points each)
* Class Attendance, Participation and case briefs (20 points)

**GRADING SCALE**

Grades for this course will be computed as follows:

- Examinations – 80% (40% x 2 each)

- Class Participation and case briefs – 20%

78-79 = C+ 0-59 = F

92-100 = A 72-77 = C

90-91 = A- 70-71 = C-

88-89 = B+ 68-69 = D+

82-87 = B 62-67 = D

80-81 = B- 60-61 = D-

**EXAMINATIONS**

There will be two examinations, a mid-term and a final. Examinations may consist of true/false, multiple choice and short answer questions. There will be a minimum of 40 questions per examination and the examination will cover materials presented during lectures and from the textbook.

Absent some emergency, there will be no make–up or early exams. Failure to take the exam when scheduled will result in the grade of “0” for the missed exam.

**Optional Extra Credit**. Attend a criminal court proceeding, preferably a trial or motion to suppress evidence. Include the name of the defendant, the offense charged, the date of the proceeding, and the name of the court attended. Write 2-3 pages maximum (double-spaced) summarizing the nature of the proceeding, the evidence introduced, issue(s) presented, and the disposition of the proceeding. (A brief interview of a participant is recommended.) This paper will be due by the date of our final exam, December 12, 2019, and will not be accepted after that date. Depending upon the quality of the paper submitted, students seeking this extra credit may have between 2 and 5 points added to their final grade.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students are expected to abide by the requirements of the University regarding academic integrity (see the Honor Code at https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/. Any form of cheating or dishonesty will be considered a serious violation of academic integrity, will be reported to the Honor Committee, and may result in a failing grade for the course and other administrative action. Without honest effort, a learning community has no substance or validity.

**COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

If you are facing significant life stressors and feeling overwhelmed, there are resources available to help you. These include Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380), which provides confidential psychological services, including 24/7 crisis intervention. There is also Student Support (703-993-5376), which helps students negotiate life situations by connecting them with appropriate resources. Student Support also has an on-line referral system (for non-emergencies only): https://ssac.gmu.edu/make-a-referral/.

The non-emergency number for the GMU police is 703-993-2810.

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Classroom civility – students are expected to respect each other and the instructor. Students should not disrupt class by arriving late, leaving early and/or by unnecessary talking or use of electronic devices. Students may be asked to leave class for any disruptions.

**Should you choose to bring a laptop/tablet/smart phone to class it must only be used for course activities.**

When in class please do not sleep, write notes to each other, read newspapers, do homework for any class, listen to music, or engage in activity that may disturb others.

**Please turn your phone on vibrate!!**

**OFFICE HOURS**

Office hours are before and after class. However, students are encouraged to meet with instructors by scheduled appointments. Students may call (703) 792-6050 to make such appointments.

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**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

**Course of Study**

Jan. 23 Course Orientation

Jan 30. Ch. 1, The Court System, Sources of Rights, and Fundamental Principles

Ch. 2, Overview of the Criminal Justice Process

Feb. 6 Ch. 12 Basic Constitution Rights of the Accused;

Assigned Reading- Moving Beyond Money: A Primer on Bail Reform

Feb. 13 Fourth Amendment

Ch. 3 Probable Cause and Reasonable Suspicion

Ch. 5 Stop and Frisk (only pages 119-143)

Feb. 20 Read and brief Whren v. U.S. (Majority Opinion Only)

Assigned Reading – Driving While Black and All Other Traffic Offenses

Feb. 27 Assigned Reading: The Benefits of Marijuana Legalization and Regulation

Assigned Reading: DEA 2018 National Drug Threat Assessment (Heroin and Fentanyl Sections Only)

Mar. 5 Mid-Term Examination

Mar. 19 Fifth Amendment

Read and Brief Miranda v. Arizona

Ch. 11 Confessions and Admissions

Mar. 26 Ch. 14 – Legal Liability of Law Enforcement Officers

Apr. 2 Ch. 13 – Sentencing, the Death Penalty, and Other Forms of Punishment

Assigned Reading Victim’s Rights – Va. Code Section 19.2-11.01

Apr. 9 Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System: Irresistible Impulse; M’Naghten History; Justice Brennan

Apr. 16 Immigration Consequences (handouts to be posted in advance)

Apr. 23 Murder Classifications, malice, heat of passion, etc. (handouts to be posted)

Apr. 30 Review for Final Exam

May 7 Final Exam

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