

Law and Justice Around the World, CRIM 405 - DL2

Online asynchronous/synchronous hybrid

Meeting times: Wednesdays, 11:00 am to 12:15 pm via Blackboard Collaborate web conference

Online office hours: Wednesdays, 12:15 pm to 12:30 pm via Blackboard Collaborate

On-campus office hours: Thursdays, 12:00 to 1:00 pm, Enterprise 345

About the Instructor

I am term assistant professor of criminology, law and society at George Mason University. My research is primarily on the death penalty, human rights, and comparative law. I have an M.Sc. in African Politics (London), a J.D. (Boston), and a Ph.D. in law (Middlesex). I am licensed to practice law in New York and Washington, DC.

Email: anovak2@gmu.edu

Office: Enterprise 345

Course materials

This course has one required text:

Baz Dreisinger, *Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice in Prisons Around the World* (2016 Other Press), https://www.amazon.com/Incarceration-Nations-Journey-Justice-Prisons/dp/1590518993/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=baz+dreisinger&qid=1579529326&sr=8-1

Supplemental readings are assigned for several weeks; these appear on Blackboard.

Grading scale for the class

I will not use the grades “D+” or “D-.”

98-100 A+

93-97 A

90-92 A-

88-89 B+

83-87 B

80-82 B-

78-79 C+

73-77 C

70-72 C-

60-69 D

<60 F

In addition, in the event that I must calculate grade fractions, I will always round up to the next highest point if you have a 0.45 or higher.

Grading rubric

Your grade in this class is based on a cumulative point total.

12 Weekly Quizzes (15 points each): 180 points

1 Paper Draft (50 points) + 1 Final Paper (100 points): 150 points

Cumulative Final Quiz: 20 points

Total: 350 points

Attendance at the web conferences may impact your final grade. Strong attendance will result in a point augmentation. Poor attendance will result in a grade reduction. See below for attendance requirements.

Embedded Program

This course has an optional embedded program. From May 17 to May 23, you have the option of traveling with me to The Hague, Brussels, and Strasbourg. We will visit the International Criminal Court, European Parliament, and European Court of Human Rights, among others. The program cost is about \$250 (which includes transport, admissions, lodging, and some meals), plus your own flight. You must fill out a study abroad application by February 7, 2020.

If you opt for the embedded program, you will have a slightly different grade breakdown, which will include your attendance and participation on the program:

12 Weekly Quizzes (15 points each): 180 points

1 Paper Draft (50 points) + 1 Final Paper (100 points): 150 points

Final Cumulative Quiz: 20 points

Attendance and Participation on the Program: 30 points

Total: 380 points

The web conference attendance policy still applies, which can result in a point reduction or augmentation.

Attendance

This course has a minimum attendance requirement. Other than the introduction class, you must attend 6 web conferences or your grade will be reduced by a flat 20 points.

If you attend at least 9 of 12 web conferences (other than the introduction class), I will give you a 100% on your lowest weekly quiz grade. I will add up to 15 points to your final point total.

Attendance at the web conferences is defined as being logged in for a critical mass of the class. Signing in and out is not an attendance. If you know in advance that you are unable to attend the web conference, please let me know. I will be able to offer you a conference call line so you can dial in. You may not attend the web conferences while driving. This includes the conference call line as well.

Late policy

A course incomplete may be given to students who have not completed the writing assignments for this course in time for final grades, with excused absences. Late papers will be subject to a flat 5-point grade reduction without an appropriate excuse.

You must take 12 weekly quizzes this semester. These quizzes are not timed and do not need to be completed in one sitting. Therefore, ordinarily no extensions will be given. If you are unable to complete a quiz by the deadline, **you must notify me within 48 hours**. Once I reveal the answers to the class, you will not be able to take the quiz. It is within my discretion to allow you to take a portion of the quiz for partial credit.

Course schedule

Lectures, readings, online assignments, and quizzes each week are available on Blackboard.

Wednesday, January 22: Introductory class

Wednesday, January 29: Common and Civil Law 1 (Quiz 1 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, February 5: Common and Civil Law 2 (Quiz 2 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, February 12: Common and Civil Law 3 (Quiz 3 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, February 19: **NO CLASS**

Wednesday, February 26: European Law and China (Quiz 4 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, March 4: Customary Law and Legal Hybrids (Quiz 5 due at 11:00 am and **draft paper due**)

Wednesday, March 11: **NO CLASS (Spring Break)**

Wednesday, March 18: Islamic Law (Quiz 6 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, March 25: International Criminal Court 1 (Quiz 7 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, April 1: International Criminal Court 2 (Quiz 8 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, April 8: International Criminal Court 3 (Quiz 9 due at 11:00 am and **final paper due**)

Wednesday, April 15: Punishment/Global Death Penalty (Quiz 10 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, April 22: Policing and Juvenile Justice (Quiz 11 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, April 29: Transnational Crime (Quiz 12 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, May 6: **Cumulative Final Quiz due at 11:59 pm**

May 17 to May 23: Optional Embedded Program to The Hague, Brussels, and Strasbourg

Honor Code

Available on the web at academicintegrity.gmu.edu. Mason shares in the tradition of an honor system that has existed in Virginia since 1842. The code is an integral part of university life. On the application for admission, students sign a statement agreeing to conform to and uphold the Honor Code. Students are responsible, therefore, for understanding the code's provisions. In the spirit of the code, a student's word is a declaration of good faith acceptable as truth in all academic matters. Cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing of academic work and related materials constitute Honor Code violations. To maintain an academic community according to these standards, students and faculty members must report all alleged violations to the Honor Committee. Any student who has knowledge of, but does not report, a violation may be accused of lying under the Honor Code.

The complete Honor Code is as follows: To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

Cheating encompasses the following: 1. The willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students. 2. The above may be accomplished by any means whatsoever, including but not limited to the following: fraud; duress; deception; theft; trick; talking; signs; gestures; copying from another student; and the unauthorized use of study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information. 3. Attempted cheating.

Plagiarism encompasses the following: 1. Presenting as one's own the words, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgment. (This includes material appearing on the Internet). 2. Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment.

Lying encompasses the following: The willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work. This includes but is not limited to: 1. Lying to administration and faculty members. 2. Falsifying any university document by mutilation, addition, or deletion. 3. Lying to Honor Committee members and counsels during investigation and hearing. This may constitute a second charge, with the committee members who acted as judges during that specific hearing acting as accusers.

Stealing encompasses the following: Taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the GMU community or any property located on the university campus. This includes misuse of university computer resources.

ALL STUDENTS ARE ON NOTICE THAT I CONSIDER PAPER RECYCLING FROM ANOTHER COURSE TO BE A VIOLATION OF THE HONOR CODE.

I use the SafeAssign Feature; papers that trip the plagiarism filter will be rejected. UPLOADING QUIZ QUESTIONS TO A COURSE SHARING WEBSITE IS PROHIBITED AND WILL BE HEAVILY SANCTIONED.

Disability Accommodations

If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should (1) make sure this documentation is on file with Office for Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; <http://ods.gmu.edu>) to determine the accommodations you need; and (2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs. I want to be helpful.