

Introduction to Law and Society  
Crim 220 Section 001, Course number 16133  
Spring 2024 class begins January 16th  
Tuesday 4:30 pm to 7:10 pm  
GMU / Fairfax Campus / In person class / Sandbridge Hall Rm 107

Instructor: Robert Grims, Adjunct Professor, GMU  
Department of Criminology, Law, and Society  
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Phone: (240)876-7992  
Office Hours: By appointment but very flexible

Career Development: Part of the class it to help students with their career path. I will mention an internship program in my department and how other past students have interned with my department. Always available for Career Questions.

#### My Background

Police Officer for the Montgomery County Department of Police serving since July 1993. Have investigated all types of crimes at both the State and Federal Level. Three times in my career I worked as a Task Force Officer for the FBI working Violent Crime. I will use several real-life experiences throughout the course. Currently I supervise a group of detectives in our Major Crimes Robbery/Homicide Division. Most of my career has been investigating violent crime and criminal gangs to include several Asian gangs and MS13. I have also taught criminal justice at two other colleges and have taught Criminal Law for years. I also teach case studies at our police academy when police officers attend our Basic Investigator School.

#### Course Information

The law is involved in all aspects of life. We need to study social science to better understand the law. Law is people as police officers, legislators, judges, lawyers, defendants, and plaintiffs are all make the law. We will learn the difference between civil and criminal law and, also look at how the law is different in every country. Several guest speakers will assist us at times throughout the semester. There will be group discussions and interaction. Critical thinking concepts will be discussed as well. How does Law relate to Justice? The textbook I will use is optional. I will be handing out review sheets each class and anything that will be testable will be noted on those review sheets. Current events will be reviewed to include international situations with Ukraine, Russia, Iran, and China. For example, who blew up two key under water pipelines in Europe?

#### Grading Composition and Exam Dates

Midterm on 35 % of total grade

Final exam 35 % of total grade

Class Participation including group participation 20 % of total grade. Most days there will be time allotted for group discussion and discussion on current events in law enforcement.

Homework, 10 % of total grade

#### Class Calendar/Agenda

January 16th First day of class. Class overview and Review of Syllabus. Review of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> amendments with focus on Reasonable Expectation of Privacy and Search and Seizure. Students will be asked their backgrounds as well as Mr. Grims will share some

policing experience. Discuss current events in law enforcement and in the world related to law and society. Also discuss any current legal issues going on in the country.

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| January 23rd              | Watch part of the movie the Star Chamber from 1983. We will stop along the way to discuss the legal law issues in the movie and, also look at the rules of search and seizure.  |
| January 30th              | First Guest Speaker will be a Retired FBI Agent. He will discuss policing from both the local government side and Federal Side. Chapter One of the Book.<br>Watch 2 <sup>nd</sup> part of the above movie and break up into small groups to discuss the ending. I will set up Group calls prior to one of the classes for each group and do this throughout the semester. Cover parts of chapter one in the book.   |
| February 6th              | Discuss my experience with the riots in DC in 2020 and how the law impacted what we could and could not do. Do a case study I was involved in involving a crew doing takeover armed robberies and sexual assaults. Case Study will involve both the Local and Federal Side of Law Enforcement. The case will also examine how a defendant turned cooperator can work. It will also examine how it can fail. Parts of Chapter two will be highlighted in the book. |
| February 13th             | Chapter Three of the book will be examined. A Judge come to class to discuss the legal aspects of his job. He will also present a self defense stand your ground case he handled when he was a Prosecutor. He will also do a case study on a complex human trafficking case he prosecuted.  |
| February 20 <sup>th</sup> | Presentation by a Gang Detective on Gangs. New laws will be discussed as well as Gang's effects on Society. Review for Mid Term   |
| February 27 <sup>th</sup> | Mid-Term (Not week after mid-term is Spring Break no Class on 3/5)  |
| March 12 <sup>th</sup>    | Go Over Mid-term Test, Review the 1993 ATF/FBI Waco Incident. Review how fall out from that may have led to the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing. Then Review how our rights have changed since those events and discuss the Mass Shooting Crisis in our country.   |
| March 19 <sup>th</sup>    | Review of the Boston City Marathon Bombing and the Search for the suspects after in 2013. What motivated the suspects to do it. Group Work  |
| March 26 <sup>th</sup>    | Part One of a Case Study involving the gang MS-13 that I was involved in which resulted in over twenty arrests for all types of crimes. Also, a movie that covers key aspects of the law will be viewed. I will not pick which movie until I get a vibe on the career goals of the students in the class.   |
| April 2nd                 | Parts of Chapter Four from the Book. Part Two of the MS13 Case Study and the legal issues with the cases will be discussed.   |
| April 9th                 | Parts of Chapter Five from the book. Groups will also discuss legal dilemmas. A case study into a Gang in Maryland and how it was the first time a new gang law in Maryland   |

was used. It will examine how both technology and social media were used to locate a crime scene of a horrible gang rape back in 2013.

April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parts of Chapter Six from the book. The 8 <sup>th</sup> Amendment and the Death Penalty Will be discussed. A review of the how technology has changed thru the years in law Enforcement.
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Group Discussion on the Death Penalty. Guest Speaker on the legal issues with Genealogy and how it was used to catch the Idaho Killer. What is Genealogy? Final exam Review
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Reading Day, no class
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Final Exam

#### Grading System

A + 100 -97 %, A 96.9 – 93%, A- 92.9 – 90%, B + 89.9 – 87%, B 86.9 – 83%, B- 82.9 – 80 %, C+ 79.9 – 77%, C 76.9 -73 %, C- 72.9 – 70 %, D 69.9 – 60, F 59.9 and below

#### Optional Textbook

Kitty Calavita. Invitation to Law and Society: An Introduction to the Study of Real Law. 2nd Edition, (2016), Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

#### Course Goals

To have a better understanding of the law and how it applies to Society. Also look at How the law is Changing today. What does the future hold?

#### Honor Code and in class behavior

Please abide by the George Mason University Honor Code. Also understand group discussions can become intense please refrain from bad language and please respect the opinions and perspectives of your fellow classmates during these discussions.