

Introduction to Constitutional Law
CJ 204 Fall 2008

Syllabus

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Class meets online

Course Objective:

CJ 204 will examine the general principles of constitutional criminal procedure and how to apply these principles to legal problems. These general principles provide the basis for understanding the U.S. Justice System. This course will emphasize the 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th Constitutional Amendments.

Expected Outcomes:

The student will be able to (1) recite the general principles of constitutional criminal procedure, and (2) apply these principles to factual problems utilizing the 4th, 5th, 6th & 8th Amendments.

Texts:

No required text. Research will be Internet• based.

Materials/Resources:

You must have:

- Internet access•
- An open mind

Course Objectives

Ethical Objective: To master the• concept and the process of answerability and its role in creating an atmosphere of morality and ethics in our institutions. Outcomes: You will participate in class discussions while respecting the responses of every member of the online community, and the accepted process of collaborative creation. You are expected to demonstrate active and involved learning. Written expression is as important as dialog participation and other means of expression. Silence will not be acceptable, as you will be graded on your active involvement in all discussions.

Technological Objective:•

To master the simple use of any computer that happens to be available. Many of your assignments and readings will be located on the Internet. Outcomes: You will be expected to research information on a website. With that information, you will be

expected to create a paper and to post your research in the discussion forum.

Praxis Objective:•

To recognize differences between theory, factual knowledge, and the application and synthesis of that knowledge in praxis. Outcomes: You will apply theoretical discussions to examples within their own institutions, as they relate to race and ethnicity. Focus on conceptually linking criminological theory to current events and personal narratives shared in discussions.

Grades and Grading

Grades on assignments are calculated using a • 100-point scale

Etiquette and Netiquette•

Netiquette:

Threaded discussion posts in online course spaces are an integral part of online learning environments. A feeling of safety is basic for any collaborative dialogue. An overview of the process of creating and participating in a safe discussion environment is provided in the online course space.

Critical Engagement Criteria:

In addition to the netiquette guidelines for online collaboration, you will be expected to participate in the online discussions in a way that engages with the topic and with the other participants. An overview of the criteria used in this course to evaluate your participation through your original and response posts is provided in the online course space.

Course Work

Assignments:

General breakdown and basic description of assignments. Refer to full description of assignments in each week's module.

Exams:

The course is set up so that each exam covers one-half of the course. There will be two exams which will cover roughly one-half of the course material. The exams are in multiple-choice or short answer format. For each, your score on the exam will be the percentage of questions you answered correctly. Grading follows a straight-scale format. In extraordinary situations a make-up exam will be made available to a student who misses a regularly-scheduled exam. This exam must be completed within one week of the original deadline date.

The exams are 90 minutes in duration, and are administered such that each question is shown on the screen. You can go on or return to a previous if needed. Further, should you not complete all questions before the 90-minute deadline, any unanswered questions will be counted as incorrect. This format makes it imperative that you begin the exam well-

prepared.

Critical Thinking

The ability to think and write critically are essential skills in many walks of life. Critical thinking skills are developed and refined through practice, self-reflection, and the critique and support of peers and instructors. Throughout this course you will have many opportunities to exercise your analytical thinking, synthesize information, and apply knowledge to real-life situations.

Deadlines/Due Dates - All due dates and deadlines are firm. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval from me. The absolute final deadline for ALL course work is every Sunday no later than 11:30 PM PST.

Communicating - It is your responsibility to communicate to me any emergency and/or other situations in a timely manner prohibiting you from completing a task. Communicating to me your emergency is important for you to receive any extension on any assignments, exams, etc.

Groupwork: You may work in study groups on all exercises, assignments, quizzes, and exams. Cooperative learning groups are strongly encouraged.

WARNING: THIS IS NOT YOUR TRADITIONAL COURSE WHERE I LECTURE AND YOU QUIETLY TAKE NOTES. I ENCOURAGE A COOPERATIVE LEARNING APPROACH AS WELL AS SEVERAL EXPERIMENTAL AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING/LEARNING TECHNIQUES. GROUPWORK IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THIS COURSE!

Plagiarism

The BCC Student Code is also very clear about the seriousness of cheating and the actions that faculty members are required to take in cases of plagiarizing: The BCC Student Code prohibits cheating, stealing, plagiarizing, knowingly furnishing false information to the college, or submitting to a faculty member any work product that the student fraudulently represents as his or her own work for the purpose of fulfilling or partially fulfilling any assignment or task required as part of a program of instruction. All forms of cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing will be reported to the Dean of Instruction.

Other Important Notes

BCC Technical Support
Troubleshooting for WebCT or Vista

First: Check the • WebCT Server Status page to find out if there are reported problems
Second: • If the problem is with your class, not the system, contact your instructor to report the problem
Third: If you cannot reach your instructor, contact the • Distance Education office at (425) 564-2438 or landerso@bcc.ctc.edu

The Academic Tutoring Center offers one-on-one and group tutoring sessions for college credit courses.

Location: D204

Phone: (425) 564-2468

Students and community members can find career planning and job search assistance in the Career Center. The Center provides one-on-one career advising, classes and workshops, work-study and internship opportunities, and many computerized resources.

Location: B231

Phone: (425) 564-2018

Academic, career, and personal counseling services and credit classes are available to all enrolled BCC students.

Location: B234

Phone: (425) 564-2212

DRC provides advocacy and classroom accommodations, including specialized materials, technology and equipment for eligible students with disabilities.

Location: B132

Phone: (425) 564-2498 or 564-4110 (TTY line)

The Childcare Center provides affordable, quality childcare to children ages 3 months to 7 years, an on-site Head Start program, and resources and classes for parents.

Location: Building Q

Phone: (425) 564-2240

Educational Planning Resource Center

Advisors, counselors and resources are available for students who wish to transfer to a four-year university, pursue a career or are undecided about their major.

Location: B232

Phone: (425) 564-2437

Learning & Computer Labs

Many academic learning labs and nearly 1,300 computers are dedicated for student use at BCC. View our complete list of labs including those located in the library and across campus.

Location: Various

Library Media Center

In addition to traditional library resources, the LMC provides access to electronic

periodicals, research assistance, books and publications, computers with Internet connections, material reservation, media lab, study rooms and other helpful resources.

Location: D124

Phone: (425) 564-225

Multi-Cultural Student Services (B233)

MCS provides culturally-sensitive academic and support services to BCC students. MCS services include outreach, advising, counseling, cultural events planning, and curriculum and policy development.

Location: B233

Phone: (425) 564-2208