

**Cedar Crest College
The Legal System
Fall – 2008**

**Course: CRJ 101
3 Credits**

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Course Description:

The Legal System introduces students to the overall concept of crime and the legal system that is utilized to both serve the public and process the criminal. The legal system is defined from the commission of a crime through the disposition, or time of sentencing. It will review all components of the processing system including: law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Students will consider how these components function individually, and as a process, to effect society. The review and consideration of this system will become the foundation of understanding the societal ills and results of deviant and criminal behavior.

Course Objectives:

This course will assist students to develop and utilize critical thinking in order to:

1. Understand the individual components of the criminal justice system.
2. Identify the key concepts of the individual components of the legal system.
3. Develop understanding of society's need for the legal system and the responsibility it has in maintaining social order.
4. Understand the various categories of crime and the punishments society has attached to them.
5. Review and learn the history of policing in the United States and its impact on the development of the legal system.
6. Understand the framework of the American Court System and the various levels within its structure.

7. Exam the rationales for punishment and the impact punishments have on society.
8. Distinguish between the various forms of punishment available: probation, parole, incarceration and modern alternatives.

Course Outcomes:

In order to adequately assess and assist students in achieving the above noted course objects, students will be required to complete assigned chapters on the selected topics from Criminal Justice Today , participate in classroom discussions and successfully complete written examinations. Additional requirements throughout the semester will include discussion with guest lectures from within the local legal system. Appropriate discussions will include student participation in the form of relevant questioning of the speaker.

Required Text:

Schmallegger, Frank. Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text for the 21st Century. Upper Saddle River, NJ; Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004.

Student Assignments:

Students are expected to complete assignments. This will include, but may not be limited to: reading assignments, writing assignments and participating in class debates.

Classroom Protocol:

Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest College Honor Code. Such behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations and any other behavior that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to their Cedar Crest College education.

Sleeping, or the appearance of sleeping is strictly prohibited. Any student who is observed sleeping will receive a zero for the class participation portion of the course. Repeated events will result in any student failing the course. Any student who is observed sleeping during a guest lecture will fail the course without question.

Faculty is expected to make clear on the first day of class reasons for specific classroom decorum and repercussions for non-compliance. Faculty should be aware of setting boundaries and procedures for exceptions to expectations stated in the syllabus.

Honor Philosophy

The Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy is based upon the principle that, as a self-governing body, students have the ability to create an atmosphere of trust and support. Within this environment, individuals are empowered to make their own decisions, develop personal regard for the system under which they live, and achieve a sense of integrity and judgment that will guide them through life.

Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance is the best means of determining what is expected in this class. Attendance will be taken. Students may miss 2 classes throughout the semester without penalty. Further absence will result in the reduction of the class participation grade. It is expected that students will obtain any missed notes and/or assignments from classmates or by calling the instructor. If a student has an emergency that requires more than 2 missed classes it is contact the instructor within 24 hours to determine the best solution to the problem.

Students should be present for all guest speakers !

Grading:

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 20% |
| Two written exams | 40% |
| Written Essay | 25% |
| Class debate | 15% |

If there are any questions regarding the expectations of this class please ask them. Ignorance is no excuse.....and there are no silly questions.

Course Schedule:

August 25 -

**Review class policies and syllabus
Course objectives and expectations
The Legal System and its Purpose
Individual Rights vs. Societal Needs
Who makes up the system?
H.W.---Read Chapters 1 and 2**

September 1 – Labor Day Holiday!

September 8 –

**Crime, Society and the Legal System
Due process
Definitions of Crime
Statistics in Crime
H.W.-Chapters 3 and 4**

September 15 –

**Criminological Theories
Hedonistic Calculus!!
Human Behavior and Causes of Crime
H.W.- Chapters 5 and 6**

September 22 –

**Policing History
Police Today
Purpose and Street Strategies
H.W. Chapter 7**

September 29-

**Policing limits
Search and Seizure
Miranda Rights
Guest Speaker
Study for exam**

October 6- Test
H.W. Chapter 9 and 10
Consider paper

October 13----Fall Break!

October 20-
The Courts
Guest Speaker
H.W. Chapter 10

October 27-
Pretrial Activity
Guest Speaker
Stages of trial
H.W. Chapter 11 and 12

November 3 –
Sentencing Options
Guideline in Pennsylvania
Victims
Probation and Parole in PA
The Difference and the Rules
H.W. Chapter 13 and 14

November 10 –
History of Prisons and Prison Today
Pa Prisons- County and State
Innovations in Programming
Future of Prisons
H.W. Chapter 15

November 17 –
Juvenile Justice
Guest Speaker
H.W. Chapter 16 and 17

November 24 –
Special Areas of Crime
Drugs, Internet and Sex Crimes

December 1 – Paper Due and Test
Consider position for final debate!

December 8 - Last Class
Final Debate

*****Dates of topics may be subject to change*****