

College of Criminal Justice  
University of South Carolina

CRJU E221: American Criminal Court Systems  
Spring 2008

Adjunct Professor: Theresa Lee Clement  
Building / Room: Davis 209  
Monday/Wednesday 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM

**Course Description:**

This course will examine courts within the framework of a larger criminal justice system. Attention will be given to the judicial process from arrest to trial. In addition, the role of various courtroom actors will be examined in light of how their decisions influence case outcomes.

**Text:**

Criminal Courts: Structure, Process and Issues (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Dean John Champion, Richard D. Hartley, Gary A. Rabe, Pearson Education, Inc., 2008

**Grading:**

There will be four tests and one exam consisting of fifty questions each. The lowest test or exam score will be dropped. At the end of the semester the four highest test or exam scores plus any extra credit points earned will be totaled. The following is the grading scale:

184 - 200 points = A  
178 - 183 points = B+  
168 - 177 points = B  
162 - 167 points = C+  
152 - 161 points = C  
146 - 151 points = D+  
136 - 145 points = D  
below 135 points = F

All *Scantron answer sheets* turned in for credit must have the following legibly written in and bubbled in **dark enough** that the Scantron reader records the information:

**Name Legibly Printed, four zeros and last five digits of Student Number (SSN), Date, Test Form:** A, B, C, D, etc. marked and bubbled in the proper boxes on Scantron answer sheet.

If the Scantron answer sheet does not meet all the requirements when turned in the student's test score will be deducted five points.

All *paper copies of Tests* handed out must be returned with the following written on the test:

**Name Legibly Printed** on the first page and **Date** exam taken

If any Test is not turned back in with the requirements listed above the student's score will be deducted five points.

All other items turned in for credit must be typed and must have the following or will receive zero credit: Name Legibly Printed, Student's Signature, four zeros and last five digits of Student Number (SSN) and Date item due and/ or Date item turned in.

Grades will be posted on Blackboard after each test and the final exam. This will normally occur within three work/school days but may be delayed due to computer problems or other unforeseen human or machine difficulties.

Any request to rescore any test because the student neglected to sufficiently darken Scantron bubbles, wrote an incorrect student number on answer sheet or any other student error will result in a five point penalty.

To aid the educational process:

All students are encouraged to use all available resources, supplements, practice exams, etc... provided by the text book publisher. For this course the resources, if any, can be found at the publisher's website.

### **Examinations:**

Four tests and the final exam will be given. Any missed test will be entered as a zero. Any make up tests must be taken before the next class period. All make up tests will automatically be reduced by one letter grade. Any Student who arrives more than ten minutes late for a test or the final exam will be docked one letter grade on that test or exam.

The questions on the tests and the final exam will be based both on the text and on the material covered in class. Tests and examinations may include a combination of objective, true or false, multiple choice and essay questions. Bring a #2 pencil to all tests and the final exam. All hats with brims (i.e. baseball, sunshade visors, etc.) must be removed or worn backwards during exams by everyone in class. Also, all sweatshirt or jacket hoods must be worn down. No earphones will be allowed during a test.

### **Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken in each class. Absence from more than five of the scheduled classes (whether excused or unexcused) is excessive and will result in one full grade penalty toward your final grade. Absence from more than 10 scheduled classes will result in two full grade penalties toward your final grade.

Attendance may be taken at the beginning, the middle or the end of class. Any student who is not present when attendance is taken will be marked absent. If a student comes to class after attendance has been taken they will be marked absent. Any student who leaves class early will be marked absent.

Attendance will be posted on Blackboard and will be updated each time test grades are posted.

### **Office Hours:**

Any student may drop by my office located in Currell building second floor Room 213 at any time and sign up for an appointment during scheduled office hours. The normal office hours will be 11:15 AM to noon and 5 PM to 5:30 PM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. These hours are subject to change and there will be times when no notice of the change is posted. I, of course, will not be there during any holiday or school closure time. If you do not sign up for an appointment and drop by the office you may not be seen due to other's having scheduled appointments. The above is the best, surest way to meet and discuss your concerns with me.

In addition to office hours, I can be available, subject to my court/ law office schedule to meet with students regarding this course.

Please, **do not** email this professor.

**Class Cancellations:**

If class is canceled for any reason:

1. Continue to follow the assignment schedule unless changes are announced in class.
2. If class is canceled on the day of a test, it will be given during the next class period.

**Note:**

Illegible writing will be marked as zero whether it is a test or an exam. Spelling or grammar errors will be graded harshly. I will deduct points for such errors. I expect excellent work on the college level.

No earplugs, ipods, cellphones, mp3 players, sunglasses, etc. shall be used or worn during any class time or exam. I will deduct 5 points from your overall grade for any violation of this section. Any voice recording, picture taking or video taping with any device, of this professor or class is strictly prohibited and can result in your dismissal or failure of this class. If you must have any electronic devices with you during class, please turn them off and place out of sight in a bag or pocket. If your cell phone must be left on, please place on vibrate and do not answer while in the class room but get up and leave only answering once outside of the classroom.

Please **do not** use class time to ask questions about your, your family's or your friend's criminal matters. This professor will not give legal advice to a student. You may request a referral to an attorney for yourself or others by calling my office or calling the SC Bar Lawyer Referral Service at (803) 799-7100.

**Additional Help:**

If anyone has a disability that may require a modification of the seating, testing or other class requirements, please see me after class so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Plagiarism:**

If you use someone else's ideas or words as your own, or if you copy material from any source without properly using quotation marks and citing your source, you are plagiarizing. If you use ideas from a source or paraphrase it closely without acknowledgment, or if you present someone else's writing as your own, you are plagiarizing. If you plagiarize, you will fail the course.

**Problems / Objections / Concerns:**

If you have any problems with the class, please make an appointment to see me, and we will work together to solve the problem.

**Extra Credit:**

Extra credit assignments may be given throughout the semester. All extra credit must be typed and turned in by the date due (which may be announced in class) or it will receive zero credit.

*Did you read this far? Any student who does this extra credit with their best effort and in the spirit it is intended will succeed both in this class and in the adventure of life. Kindness to others blesses the giver.*

Any student who specifically reports they have done three random, anonymous acts of kindness during this semester will receive five points of extra credit toward their final grade. Each report must be a minimum of one typed page per random act. The random, anonymous act of kindness must not be toward any friend, family member, spouse, child, or person of interest in your life. In other words the act of kindness must be toward a stranger, and must not be purely a giving of money. Describe what the act was and what motivated you to do it in a one page paper. Three acts of kindness and three papers must be submitted to receive any

extra credit. The papers must be turned in at the beginning of class Wednesday, April 2, 2008. Remember spelling or grammar errors will be graded harshly. I will deduct points for such errors. I expect excellent work on the college level.

**Syllabus (subject to modification as our needs require)**

Jan 14 --- Discuss Syllabus and Give Overview of the Course

Jan 16 --- Read Text Pages 1 - 20

**Jan 21 --- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - Service Day - NO CLASS**

Jan 23 --- Read Text Pages 20 - 35 / Turn in last page of Syllabus

Jan 28 --- Read Text Pages 35 - 55

Jan 30 --- Read Text Pages 55 - 75

Feb 4 --- Practice Test / Practice test, each student must score 100%. Any student who scores less than 100% must retake the practice test until a 100% score is achieved.

**Feb 6 --- Test 1 - covers Text Pages 1 - 64 and all material covered in class**

Feb 11 --- Discuss Test 1 - Attendance Not Required

Feb 13 --- Read Text Pages 75 - 125

Feb 18 --- Read Text Pages 125 - 175

Feb 20 --- Read Text Pages 175 - 225

Feb 25 --- Read Text Pages 225 - 255

**Feb 27 --- Test 2 - covers Text Pages 65 - 255 and all material covered in class**

Mar 3 --- Discuss Test 2 - Attendance Not Required

Mar 5 --- Read Text Pages 255 - 300

**Mar 9 - 16 Spring Break - Holiday - NO CLASS on March 10 or 12**

Mar 17 --- Read Text Pages 300 - 350

Mar 19 --- Read Text Pages 350 - 400

Mar 24 --- Read Text Pages 400 - 450

**Mar 26 --- Test 3 - covers Text Pages 256 - 394 and all material covered in class**

Mar 31 --- Discuss Test 3 - Attendance Not Required

Apr 2 --- Read Text Pages 450 - 500

Apr 7 --- Read Text Pages 500 - 550

Apr 9 --- Read Text Pages 550 - 570

**Apr 14 --- Test 4 - covers Text Pages 395 - 570 and all material covered in class**

Apr 16 --- Discuss Test 4 - Attendance Not Required

Apr 21 --- **No extra credit will be allowed after this date. All posted grades are final after this date. Please do not ask for any changes to be made to your previously posted scores after this date.**

Apr 23 ---

Apr 28 --- Last Day - Review for Final - Students should bring their questions about any material they are not clear on. The professor will not cover the entire semester in one class period.

**Final Exam Monday, May 5, 2008 at 7:45 PM - Cumulative**

*This Sheet must be completed and turned in at end of the third class period or two points will be deducted from first test.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last five digits of Student Number (SSN): 000-0\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Tell me something about yourself that makes you unique: *use the back of this sheet if needed*

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- I understand that if I hand in assignments late, or hand written, the assignment will be given a zero even if the professor accepts the assignment in hand. This includes extra credit assignments.
- I understand that attendance in class is mandatory and should I miss any part of class, my grade will suffer accordingly.
- I understand that since I may drop my lowest test score, late tests will automatically be docked one letter grade.
- I understand that spelling and grammar errors will significantly and negatively impact upon my grade. This includes extra credit assignments.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to write my name on all items handed in or I will receive a zero for that item.
- I understand the test form (A, B, C, etc.) must be marked correctly on all test answer sheets or I will lose five points for that test or exam.
- I understand that all test answer sheets and test form question sheets must be returned to the professor and I will lose five points for a test if either form is not received with the required information written on each.
- I have read the syllabus and I expect that I will be held to the requirements written therein.
- At the end of the semester I will not ask, beg, whine, or attempt to coerce Prof. Clement for a higher grade than I have earned during the semester. I agree to accept any reductions in my grade for excessive absences, late tests, failure to put my name on test form when required, etc... .

*Simon Says: All questions/ blanks must be complete and sheet must be turned in on time or points will be deducted from first test. If you add/attend this class for the first time after the third meeting day you cannot avoid the points lost. Do not ask for an exception. Read the syllabus and do what it says to recover from your late start. However, still complete and turn in this sheet to stay in good favor with this professor.*