

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT
GOVERNMENT 319
LAW AND POLITICS
SPRING SEMESTER 2000**

GENERAL INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Melinda Frederick
DAYS: Monday/Wednesday/Friday
COURSE TIME: 11:00-11:50 p.m.
CLASSROOM: CAC, Room 115
OFFICE: CAC, Room 0318
OFFICE HOURS: M/W/F, 10:00-11:00, 2:00-3:00, or by appt.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the relationship between law and the political order, with a focus on the use of legal procedure for political ends. Special emphasis will be placed on the United States.

REQUIRED READINGS

Katsh, Ethan. Taking Sides: Legal Issues. (8th ed.) 1998. Guilford, Conn: Dushkin/McGraw Hill Publishers.

Jacob, Herbert. Law and Politics in the United States. 1995. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.

Victor, Joseph, (ed.). Annual Editions: Criminal Justice. 1999/2000. (23rd ed.) Guilford, Conn: Dushkin/McGraw Hill Publishers.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

For successful completion of this course, the student should have:

1. increased his/her knowledge of the basic concepts and theories used in the study and application of law in the United States;

2. increased his/her awareness of the salient issues facing the criminal justice system and their connection to the political arena;

3. increased his/her critical thinking skills by writing comparative and persuasive essays.
4. developed field research skills.

TEACHING MODES

The major teaching modes to be employed in this course will be a combination of lecture, discussion, group work and individual presentations. This will be supplemented by

1. out of class assignments,
2. reading and writing assignments, and
3. independent field investigation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students' performance will be based upon the following requirements:

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| 1. Three in-class exams | 65% |
| 2. Homework assignments, group class work | 15% |
| 3. Field project | 15% |
| 3. participation and attendance | 5% |

The final grade of the course will be calculated based upon the average of the grades received in each category and the total points earned. A numerical score will be equivalent to the following letter grades:

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| 90- 100 | = A |
| 80- 89 | = B |
| 70- 79 | = C |
| 60- 69 | = D |
| Below 60 | =F |

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. Class attendance is required of all students. No more than six absences, excused or unexcused, will be allowed for the semester. Additional absences will result in the lowering of the student's attendance grade by 5 percent per absence. Tardiness of more than 5 minutes will be recorded as an absence.

2. Students are required to make up all work missed because of their absences. Late work will go down five points per day unless excused by the professor in advance. Students unable to hand in their work in class must either e-mail, fax or drop off their work in the department for it to be considered on time.

3. Excused absences are those incurred such as acute illness, death of an immediate family member, or other family emergency. Documentation for such absences is required and students are expected to contact the professor as soon as possible to determine what work they missed or is due. **This policy will be strictly enforced.**

COURSE OUTLINE

PART ONE: CONCEPTS AND FRAMEWORK. THE DISPUTANTS AND CRIMINALS

1. INTRODUCTION- Week 1

- A. Course Overview and Introduction
- B. Law as Politics
- C. The Legal System and Process

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 1

2. THE LAW- Week 2

- A. An Abstract Definition of the Law
- B. The Structure and Distinctiveness of American Law
- C. Justice and Law
- D. A Breakdown of Moral Values?

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 2. Annual Editions, no 5.

3. DISPUTANTS AND THE LAW--Week 3

- A. Dispute Processing Arenas
- B. Disputes in and out of Court
- C. Are Americans Overly Contentious?
- D. A Sequence of Events in the Criminal Justice System

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 3. Annual Editions, no.1.

4. LAW AND PUBLIC ORDER- Week 4

- A. Victims and Criminal Law
- B. Criminal Offenders
- C. Murder and Crime in the United States

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 4. Annual Editions, no. 6.- UNIT ONE EXAM

UNIT TWO: GATEKEEPERS AND LAWMAKERS

5. THE POLICE- Week 5

- A. Police as Agents of Social Control
- B. Police as Gatekeepers

C. African American Males and the Criminal Justice System

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 5. Annual Editions, no. 4.

6. LAWYERS- Week 6

- A. The Structure of the Bar
- B. Access to Counsel
- C. Bargain Justice
- D. Unequal Resources

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 6. Annual Editions, no. 17. Taking Sides, Issue 3.

7. INTEREST GROUPS- Week 7

- A. Interest Group in Legislatures
- B. Interest Groups in the Administrative Process
- C. Interest Groups in the Courts
- D. Legal Issues and Case Studies

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 7. Annual Editions, no 25. Taking Sides, Issue 9.

8. LEGISLATURES- Week 8

- A. The Legislative Process
- B. Relations Between Legislatures and Courts
- C. Legislative Lawmaking

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 11. Annual Editions, no. 36, 38. Taking Sides, Issue 18.-
UNIT TWO EXAM

PART THREE: THE COURTS, JUVENILES, CRIME AND CORRECTIONS

9. TRIAL COURTS- Week 9

- A. Common Elements of Trial Courts
- B. Criminal Proceedings
- C. Civil Proceedings
- D. Trial Judges
- E. Jury Nullification and Due Process

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 8. Annual Editions, no. 18 and 19.

10. APPELLATE COURTS- Week 10

- A. The Function and Structure of Appellate Courts
- B. What Appellate Courts Do
- C. How Appellate Courts Work
- D. Appeals and the Political Arena

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 9. Annual Editions, no 20. Taking Sides, Issue 17.

11. THE SUPREME COURT- Week 11

- A. How the Court Works
- B. The Supreme Court and the Political Arena

Reading: Jacob, Chapter 10. Annual Editions, no. 36, 38.

12. JUVENILE JUSTICE- Week 12

- A. Juvenile Offenders- a Profile
- B. Juvenile Court System
- C. Corrections Crisis: Rehabilitation or Recidivism?

Reading: Annual Editions, no. 23, 26, 28.

13. CRIME AND CORRECTIONS-Week 13

- A. The Crisis in Corrections
- B. Causes of Crime and Prevention
- C. Prisons: Rehabilitation or Restitution?

Reading: Annual Editions, no. 32, 37.

14. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS- Week 14