
CJE4174 – COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS/FALL 2016

Department of Criminal Justice - Florida International University

Instructor: Clarence E. Stephens Jr., M.S.

Office Hours: Upon Request

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Class meets on Tuesday, 8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Deuxieme Maison 100

Course Description

A comparative study of the four major legal traditions (e.g., Common law, Civil law, Socialist law, and Sacred law) and how they became the predominant legal systems in the world today; analysis of criminal justice system components including police, courts, and corrections in each of six Model Nations, using the American system of criminal justice as the standard for comparison. This comparative study will include a basic review of the U. S. Supreme Court's history and function, and will vastly improve students' knowledge of our own criminal justice and law-making systems, in addition to gaining a basic understanding of supranational courts and their function in the prosecution of war crimes and terrorism-related incidents.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Analyze and systematically compare the basic philosophies of criminal justice policymaking, law enforcement, courts, and correctional systems of the United States and six Model Nations, and examine the historical and political factors which led to the adoption of each country's system.
- Develop an understanding of the interrelationship between crime and punishment from a global, comparative perspective, and apply critical thinking skills to the examination of systems and issues in criminal justice.
- Gain an understanding of transnational crime and international justice issues, supranational courts, juvenile justice, and the legal challenges inherent in war crimes prosecutions and extra-judicial detention of terrorists.
- Gain an understanding of the basic functions and structure of the United States Supreme Court.

Teaching Philosophy

Over three decades of combined experience in the United States Marine Corps active and reserve components and as a police officer and supervisor for a major South Florida police department have shaped my teaching philosophy along the Apprenticeship and Transmission-oriented perspectives of teaching. I stress relevant content as a priority, with contextual understanding and "real world" application of that content being the ultimate goal. Focus, discipline, critical thinking skills, and effective time management are necessary traits and tools in the law enforcement professions as well as the military, and thus should likewise be practiced and applied in the criminal justice academic environment.

Required Readings

1. Comparative Criminal Justice Systems by Harry R. Dammer and Jay S. Albanese (Fifth Edition) ISBN-13: 978-1-285-06786-5
2. The Supreme Court by William Rehnquist (Second Edition) – **Do not buy this book** until instructed to do so, as it will not be needed for the first several weeks.
3. Supplemental readings related to course topics may be assigned throughout the semester and posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

This course is a hybrid, **web-assisted class** using Blackboard as the learning management system. This means that some course materials are provided on Blackboard, however, class attendance will be crucial to successful completion of this course. Additionally, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have internet access or to become familiar with the campus computer labs. **Specifics on Blackboard-presented lectures will be forthcoming.**

Class Participation

- **Complete all reading assignments before coming to class, beginning Week 1!** This course will involve significant in-class discussions, centered on content from the textbook and video presentations, to develop sufficient knowledge of other countries' criminal justice systems so that we may systematically compare, contrast, and analyze the differences between those systems and our own here in the United States.
- **Class attendance and diligent note taking are highly recommended!**
- Team-Based Learning (TBL) exercises will comprise a significant part of your grade and **require class attendance to take the quizzes and earn bonus points!**
- Please refrain from taking cell phone photos of the Instructor's PowerPoint slides; meaning, **take your own notes!**

Grading

The final grade will be based on the following course requirements:

Exams

There will be three cumulative exams with a maximum score of 25, 60 and 70 points each, respectively. The exams will be based on textbook content, lectures, discussions, presentations, and related materials. There will be a term paper assignment in addition to a Mid Term exam, and a Final exam. Each exam will be made up of multiple choice questions, in addition to short essay or fill-in-the-blank questions on the Mid Term. Make-up exams will only be given under extenuating circumstances, with accompanying

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documentation. *Exams and term papers are to be completed individually without any assistance. Standards of academic integrity will be adhered to without exception!*

Team Based Learning (TBL) Exercises

- TBL quizzes and group exercises will be conducted and based on reading assignments for Chapters 7 and 8 combined, and Chapter 10. The quizzes will be graded on an individual basis and will comprise a maximum of 30 points toward your final grade. The TBL group exercises require individual preparation combined with group collaboration on **in-class exercises**; they will not require group study outside of class, but will provide **each group member in attendance** the opportunity to earn 10 bonus points toward their final grade. An explanation of how the bonus points will be awarded will be given prior to the first TBL exercise.
- There will be no individual homework assignments beyond that required to prepare for TBL quizzes and exercises and scheduled exams.

Drop Date

- Final course drop date with a “DR” on academic record will be October 31, 2016.

*Please be advised that Criminal justice majors must earn a grade of C or better to pass this class. There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used to determine your course grade:

Assessments and Grade Values		Grading Scale		
Assignment	Maximum Points	Points Earned	Percent	Grade
First Exam	25	194-215	90-100%	A
		189-193	88-89%	B+
Mid-Term Exam	60			
Final Exam	70	172-188	80-87%	B
TBL quiz scores 15 pts each	30	167-171	78-79%	C+
Term Paper	30			
Total net score: 215		150-166	70-77%	C
+		146-149	68-69%	D+
TBL Bonus points 5/5 = 10 max		129-145	60-67%	D
=		Below 129	60%	F
Total Maximum Score 225				

Incomplete grade

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An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol given at the discretion of the professor for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student's own negligence. To be eligible, written documentation must be provided. The student also must have successfully completed half of the coursework with a passing grade. An incomplete must be made up as quickly as possible, but no later than two consecutive semesters after the initial taking of the course or it will automatically default to an "F" or the grade that the student earned in the course.

Student misconduct

FIU is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. Academic misconduct is a serious offense at FIU because it diminishes the quality of the scholarship and learning experience for everyone on campus. An act of academic misconduct, including cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and classroom disruption (e.g., cell phones), may lead to penalties such as a reduction in grade, probation, suspension, or expulsion. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotations, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency that may or may not be engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Students with Disabilities

Florida International University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability, which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Disability Resource Center (305-348-3532). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified, documented disabilities.

Course Schedule and Weekly Readings		
Date	Lecture and Reading Topic	Assigned Readings
Week 1 – 8/23/16	Syllabus review – The Historical-Political Approach to Comparative CJ Study	Chapter 1
Week 2 – 8/30/16	Measuring and Comparing Crime in and Across Nations	Chapter 2
Week 3 – 9/6/16	Families of Law	Chapter 3
Week 4 – 9/13/16	1st Exam Six Model Nations	Chapters 1-3 Chapter 4
Week 5 – 9/20/16	Law Enforcement: Functions, Organization, and Current Issues	Chapter 5

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Week 6 – 9/27/16	Criminal Procedure Mid Term exam review	Chapter 6
Week 7 – 10/4/16	**No Class**	
Week 8 – 10/11/16	**Mid Term Exam** The Courts and Legal Professionals	Chapters 1 - 6 Chapter 7
Week 9 – 10/18/16	**No Class** Read The Supreme Court/Research Term papers	
Week 10 – 10/25/16	**No Class** Read The Supreme Court/Complete Term Papers, submit via Blackboard by 11/1/16	
Week 11 – 11/1/16	After Conviction: The Sentencing Process/The Supreme Court **1st TBL Quiz and Exercise **	Chapter 8 Quiz based on Ch. 7, 8 and Supreme Court readings
Week 12 - 11/8/16	Terrorism	Chapter 10
Week 13 – 11/15/16	Terrorism	Chapter 10
Week 14 – 11/22/16	**2nd TBL Quiz and Exercise ** Transnational Organized Crime	Quiz based on Ch. 10 Chapter 11
Week 15 – 11/29/15	Juvenile Justice in International Perspective **Class evaluations** **Final Exam review**	Chapter 12 Chapters 7, 8, 10-12
Finals Week – 12/6/16	**Final Exam** **Time to be Determined**	Chapters 7, 8, 10-12 and The Supreme Court

***This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified of any changes in a timely manner.**