



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**Course Number and Section(s):** CJL 4038-0001  
**Course Name:** Law, Society, and the Administration of Justice  
**Semester and Year:** Spring 2024  
**Class Location:** HCB 0103  
**Class Days:** Monday, Wednesday, & Friday  
**Class Time:** 1:20pm to 2:10pm EST

**Professor:** Bryan Holmes  
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**Office:** 201A Criminology & CJ Bldg.  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 12:00pm to 1:30pm  
or by appointment

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**Office:** 201 Criminology & CJ Bldg.  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

### Course Description

This course will provide an overview of the study of law from a multidisciplinary perspective. We will discuss the legal ideas, legal institutions, and legal processes that coalesce to make up the criminal justice system. We will examine the historical underpinnings of “justice” and how these ideas still permeate contemporary criminal justice policy. We will assess how external forces that are assumed to be disconnected from the law—such as economics, politics, or psychology—find their way impacting judicial, legislative, and executive decision making. We will analyze the evolution of the legal profession, from judges to prosecutors to defense counsel, and consider what their evolution can tell us about the structure of law and its relation to society. Moreover, we will survey contemporary methods of formal social control from diverse angles, in an attempt to understand the relationship between law and different groups in society. By the end of the semester you will be able to: demonstrate a thorough understanding of the criminal legal system, identify the foundation of laws, policies, and justice administration, and brainstorm multidimensional solutions for existing problems in the criminal justice process.

### Course Objectives

1. To understand the historical and philosophical foundation of justice and law.
2. To evaluate where laws come from and their impacts.
3. To understand legal theories and functions – as well as their implications.
4. To identify strengths and weaknesses in contemporary legal philosophies.
5. To describe the role of the three branches of government in the criminal justice process.
6. To understand the criminal justice process - from crime reporting to re-entry - from a multidisciplinary approach.
7. To identify the history of the legal profession and its impacts on the modern legal profession.

8. To evaluate the immediate and distal implications of legal policies for different groups in society.
9. To understand the contemporary era of American criminal justice and the modern challenges faced.
10. To identify discretionary decisions in the criminal justice process and the various factors that influence these discretionary decisions.

## **Text & Materials**

Readings for this course will be posted on Canvas.

## **Attendance Policy**

Attendance will not be taken every class but it will be taken sporadically via attendance checks. These attendance checks will be graded as pass/fail. Advanced notice and documentation is required if you are to miss class for an excused purpose (e.g., conference travel, sports-related travel, religious holiday). Absences for illness, emergencies, or family-related matters must be communicated to the professor by email prior to the scheduled class time. For detail on how absences are included into grading, see the Attendance section in the Course Assignments section below.

## **Course Assignments**

### ***Exams***

There will be two exams: (1) a Midterm and (2) a Final. The exams will be administered in person, in class. Exams will be a combination of (a) multiple choice and (b) short answer questions. The Final Exam will be comprehensive (contain information from the entire semester). If a student is unable to complete an exam on the scheduled date, they should contact the professor **at least** 24 hours in advance. Students who miss an exam without a formal excuse will receive a 0. The exams will be administered in HCB 0103 (the normal classroom) on the following day/times:

Midterm Date	Monday March 4 <sup>th</sup> 2024 from 1:20pm to 2:10pm EST
Final Date	Wednesday May 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024 from 12:30pm to 2:30pm EST

### ***Weekly Quizzes***

After class each Friday, there will be a quiz available on CANVAS. The quizzes will consist of both multiple choice and short answer questions based on the topics covered in class that week. The purpose of these weekly quizzes is two-fold: (1) engage you all in the material outside of the classroom setting and (2) help prepare you for the exams. On weeks where there is an exam, there will be no quiz. Quizzes will be due by Monday at 1:20 PM EST (the start of class) of the following week. Quizzes not turned in on time will receive a 0 and there will be no opportunity to make up missed weekly quizzes. Use of artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT, for the weekly quizzes is prohibited and will result in a 0.

## ***Assignments***

Throughout the class, there will be assignments given to students. The assignments will be either (a) given in class or (b) given on Canvas. Moreover, the assignments will consist of short writing prompts, reflections on readings, group discussions, etc. Use of artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT, for the assignments is prohibited and will result in a 0. Students who do not turn in the assignment by the due date, without a prior approved formal excuse, will receive a 0.

## ***Attendance***

Attendance will be taken sporadically and unannounced throughout the semester. Attendance will count for 10% of your final grade. Six attendance checks will be collected throughout the semester. One attendance check will be dropped (i.e., you can miss one attendance check and still get the full 10% for attendance). Each attendance check will be worth 2% of your final grade.

## ***Extra Credit***

There will be two opportunities for extra credit – available to all students. No extra credit opportunity will be specific to a student, please do not ask.

## **Course Grading**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of Final Grade</b>
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Weekly Quizzes	20%
Assignments	15%
Attendance	10%

## **Grading Scale**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>% Equal to or Greater than</b>
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	0-59

## **Syllabus Change Policy**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

## **University Attendance Policy**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

## **Academic Honor Policy**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>).

## **Academic Success**

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and
- (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
- (3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services  
874 Traditions Way  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
oas@fsu.edu  
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

### **Confidential Campus Resources**

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program  
University Center A, Rm. 4100  
(850) 644-7161  
Available 24/7/365  
Office Hours: M-F 8-5  
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

Counseling and Psychological Services  
Askew Student Life Center, 2nd floor  
942 Learning Way  
(850) 644-8255  
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services  
Health and Wellness Center  
(850) 644-6230  
<https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

### **Free Tutoring from FSU**

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact [tutor@fsu.edu](mailto:tutor@fsu.edu). High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis.

These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.