

## SYLLABUS

### JUSTICE 365 - COMPARATIVE JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Section 301 – CRN 52296

**Summer 2009**

SSB 118

TWR – 10:00 AM to 12:45 PM

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#### **Office Hours**

1 to 2 PM Wednesday  
or by appointment.

#### **JUSTICE CENTER**

<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/just/>

#### UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

We care about your safety on campus. While relatively safe, our campus is NOT a sanctuary from crime and accidents still occur no matter how hard we try to prevent them. You are encouraged to be responsible for your own safety and to bring safety concerns to the attention of UAA faculty or staff, or contact Campus Police 786-4911 when you observe an unsafe environment. For your own safety, please also take the time to locate the nearest exit and emergency telephone when you are in campus buildings.

For life threatening situations only: 6-4911

6/30/2009

## JUSTICE 365 - COMPARATIVE JUSTICE SYSTEMS

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Justice systems are examined on a global basis, in contrast with American justice systems, as a basis for a comparative approach to present-day national and international problems in crime and the administration of justice. Varying approaches--continental, Anglo-American and eastern--to policing, corrections, legal systems and social order are reviewed and evaluated.

### II. PURPOSE OF COURSE:

The course is designed to provide the student with a better understanding of the national and international problem of crime and the administration of justice. Students will find and evaluate the justice-related mechanism in the various countries to gain insights into our own system. The course provides an opportunity for the student to broaden their understanding of justice related topics in a manner not normally available in other areas of the justice curriculum and to apply those insights to current justice problems. The course will provide justice students and others with an interest in international justice systems, with an understanding of criminal justice methodologies and issues relevant to comparative justice studies. The course allows for significant Canadian content. The course also is listed as an elective for those students majoring in International Studies.

### III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will understand and appreciate the position that no country is immune from any type of international and transnational crime.
2. The student will be able to quickly find and use global justice information to provide insights into local justice issues and concerns.
3. The student will be able to contrast American criminal justice methods with those of other nations and prepare summaries of INTERNET information bearing on questions of interest to policymakers.
4. The student will formulate an appreciation for international cooperation in the development and exchange of information.

### IV. TEXTS:

Dammer, Harry R. and Fairchild, Erika, S. Comparative Criminal Justice Systems, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2006.  
Lab, S. and Das, D. International perspectives on community policing and crime prevention. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2003.

### V. COURSE METHODS:

The text listed above will serve as a guide and framework for a more comprehensive examination of international justice systems. The INTERNET and class lectures will be supplemented by the student's own efforts and interests in particular countries and systems. Electronic information gathering will be demonstrated and its use required. In class INTERNET exercises will demonstrate how to use the INTERNET to quickly find and prepare responses to justice related issues and how to prepare the INTERNET based research papers. Small group assignments will combine both INTERNET and reading assignments.

Students will be expected to be fully prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class at the time they are due. Students are responsible for knowing what material will be covered on all exams and taking them when scheduled. Missed exams, in-class group assignments or presentations can only be made up if the student has appropriate written documentation of the absence, including a phone number and the class dates and time for which the student is presenting the excused documentation.

One mid-term exam and one comprehensive final exam will be given. The exact details of the INTERNET based research papers will be presented in the first weeks of class. The course grade will be based on the following:

1 mid-term exam	= 100
1 final comprehensive exam	= 200
INTERNET research paper and informal class presentation	= 100
5 small group assignments (5 x 20)	= <u>100</u>
Total Points	= 500

Grades will be awarded on the following scale:

450 - 500 = A (90 - 100%)  
400 - 449 = B (80 - 89%)  
350 - 399 = C (70 - 79%)  
300 - 349 = D (60 - 69%)  
below 300 = F

Consistent with UAA policy, failure to attend classes will be taken into consideration in calculating a student's final grade for the course. Attendance will be noted by the instructor and used for "borderline" final grade determinations.

## **VII. "INCOMPLETE" GRADE**

UAA regulations restrict the awarding of the grade of incomplete ("I") to situations such as unavoidable absences or other conditions beyond the control of a student. No grade of "I" will be submitted without the completion of a formal contract between the student and the instructor. The student is responsible for initiating action for such a contract. **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A SIGNED AND COMPLETED INCOMPLETE CONTRACT IN YOUR HAND, YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE!** Conversations about a potential incomplete DO NOT constitute the real thing. The Incomplete Contract MUST be in writing and in your hand.

## **VIII. DISABILITY**

If you experience a disability and would like information about support services, contact Disability Support Services, located in RH 105, at 786-4530.

## **IX. DISPOSAL OF CLASS MATERIALS**

All class materials (exams, reports, etc.) will be disposed of during the last week of September 2009. Please come by to get any materials or discuss potential grading errors prior to that time.

## **X. OBTAINING GRADES**

Grades will be available on UAOnline after August 5, 2009 or on the Blackboard course grade book. Please do not call.

## **XI. ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Although there will be no formal points awarded for attendance, normal class attendance is expected. Attendance assumes that you will participate in the small group discussions that will be a regular aspect of class activities. Studies have shown that those students who come to class and participate in small group discussions do much better on exams and retain information longer. The small group discussions will mostly be done in class and any points awarded for their completion can only be obtained if you are present and participating in those discussions.

## **XII. POLICY ON PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism: Using other people's ideas, phrases, or writing without proper documentation, including having others write your assignments or using undocumented library or electronic research, will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action can range from failure of the assignment in question to failure in the course and disciplinary action at the university level. See the UAA *Fact Finder Student Handbook*, Student Code of Conduct (page 78): [http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/studentaffairs/upload/indexed%20FF%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/studentaffairs/upload/indexed%20FF%20(2).pdf)

## TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

**The full course syllabus is available in the Blackboard "Course Documents"**

Class	Topic	Assignment
T 5-19	Introduction to the Course	D&F Ch 1
W 5-20	Video <b>INTERPOL (15 min.)</b>	LAB & DAS All page from cover to page 1
Th 5-21	Measuring and Comparing Crime Across Nations Video <b>CORR 19 (53 min.); LAW 07 (28 min.); Crimjust 06 (30 min.)</b> <b>Data Sources and the INTERNET</b>	D&F Ch 2 LAB & DAS Ch 1 & 2
T 5-26	Families of Law Video <b>GOVT 04, 05</b>	D&F Ch 3 LAB & DAS Ch 2 & 3
W 5-27	Six Model Nations Video <b>GOVT 02, 03</b>	D&F Ch 4 LAB & DAS Ch 4
Th 5-28	Review for Mid-term exam Video <b>CRIMJUST 07 (48 min.)</b> Work session for first INTERNET research question. Time/Place TBA.	
<b>T 6-2 A</b>	<b>Mid-term Exam – Do not be late! Exam will end for all at 11:15.</b>	<b>All Material to date</b>
T 6-2 B	Police and Community Policing	D&F Ch 5
W 6-3	Dilemmas in International Criminal Justice: terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking. Video <b>CRIMJUST 08</b>	D&F Ch 11 and 12
Th 6-4	Criminal Procedure	D&F Ch 6 (Ch 13 optional) L&D5
T 6-9	Legal Actors	D&F Ch 7
W 6-10	Courts and Trials Video <b>NJ RIP 001</b>	D&F Ch 8 L&D6
Th 6-11	Sentencing and Prisons Video <b>NJ RIP 004</b>	D&F Ch 9 and 10
T 6-16	Convergence and Persistence. Begin Course Review	D&F Ch 14 L&D Ch 16
W 6-17	<b><u>Reports DUE at start of class.</u></b> Presentation of Papers and Finish Course Review	None
<b>Th 6-18</b>	<b>Final Exam – Thursday.</b>	<b>Comprehensive</b>

A & B refer to before and after the class break.

"D&F" refers to Dammer & Fairchild text. Lab and Das refer to the "Intrn'l Perspectives on CJ" text. First INTERNET research paper will be based on chapters from the L&D text.

### **SPECIAL NOTE ON THE INTERNET BASED ASPECTS OF YOUR RESEARCH REPORTS:**

The product that you must turn in will be based upon your INTERNET research. It will summarize this research in a special manner that will make this exercise different from a standard term paper for other classes. The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate the ability of the internet to provide global input into local questions in a rapid manner. The key elements of the assignment will be your ability to clearly state the question or purpose, clearly summarize the data found, clearly cite the sources of your data and in general provide a credible report. More than one source is expected, data (in the form of numbers, tables, research results, etc.) is required and all of this must be done in 6-10 pages of "report" and perhaps additional pages of an appendix. We will go over the requirements for the assignment in more detail during the first week of class.