

JUSTICE 410 001
CINEMATIC IMAGES OF JUSTICE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2009

January 12 - May 2, 2009

Wednesday 5:30PM - 8:15PM

SSB 118

INSTRUCTOR: Lawrence C. Trostle
OFFICE: LIB 213, Justice Center
TELEPHONE: (907) 786-1816
OFFICE HRS: TBA

COURSE DURATION: January 12 to May 2, 2009 (Please note that the Class Schedule indicates that the class ends at 8:15 p.m. It **may frequently** run until 8:30 p.m. please plan accordingly.)

CLASS TIME: 5:30 to 8:15 p.m.

CLASS LOCATION: SSB 118

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 1, 2009 from 4:00 to 6:45 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A visual survey of how the cinema has portrayed the criminal justice system. Attention will be given to each component of the justice system. The dynamic impact of fictionalized events and justice system actions/reactions will be juxtaposed with the reality of the justice system. Concepts such as equality, privacy, police brutality/corruption, gangs, and prison life will be viewed against the background of political economies and legal reality.

COURSE DESIGN:

The course will review how the cinema portrays justice issues and organizations. Fictionalized portrayals of justice system decision making, who and how they are made will be juxtaposed with the reality of the criminal justice system. Issues of power and control, and influence will be analyzed at all levels of the justice system. Concerns of special interest groups will be reviewed in the context of equal access and opportunity. The influence of the cinema on public perceptions of the justice system will be explored.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course is designed to contrast the popular myths of the justice system as portrayed by the cinema with the reality of the criminal justice system.

The course will provide an opportunity for students to view/study some of the controversial relationships between justice institutions and society, fact and fiction. This course will aid students in identifying and assessing the consequences of stresses between social situations and justice institutions.

COURSE ACTIVITIES:

This course will consist of viewing approximately 15 videos that relate directly to justice system issues as portrayed by the movie industry. We will explore the reality of how well these justice issues are portrayed in these fictionalized movies. The course will include a combination of lecture, small and large group discussions, individual research projects, assigned readings and journaling. Course requirements will include attendance at all sessions, completion of a weekly journal and weekly papers as well as a final exam. Some guest lectures will be included.

VIDEO REVIEW:

Each week, prior to the viewing of the video, a list of questions will be passed out. These questions will address justice issues portrayed in the coming video. Each student will respond to these questions in writing and the responses will be submitted at the beginning of the next week's class. **Late papers will not be accepted.** The answers must be succinct and respond directly to the questions asked. All responses must be typed. These papers will be graded and returned at the beginning of the next class meeting. These questions will be maintained in a journal. The journal will also contain responses to research assignments that will be passed out. Journals will be submitted periodically for review. These assignments will address background issues portrayed in the videos in greater detail, e.g., What is a Public Law 280 State, subject matter and geographical jurisdiction, police stress, etc.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. You must attend class on a regular basis to do well in this course. Class begins at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 8:15 p.m. **Please arrive on time.** Late arrivals are disruptive and the class assignments will have already been made. You are expected to stay until the class is dismissed. Class attendance will account for at least 25% of your overall grade on each assignment. An attendance sheet will be kept for all classes. **If you leave early, 25% will be deducted from that class assignment. Same will apply if you are late.**

Attendance will be factored into your grade on a weekly basis. For example, your response to a given week's set of questions may be worth 75 points and attendance would be factored in for 25 points equaling 100 possible points for that week. If you missed the class but responded to the questions the maximum points possible would be 75 points. Please note that there are no classes scheduled on the following dates:

March 9 - 14 , 2009 Easter Vacation

READINGS:

From time to time there will be some assigned readings. These readings will either be copied and distributed to you in class, or placed on reserve in the library. The topics to be addressed will be: Justice, War Crimes, Supreme Court Cases (available online), etc. and will be

directly related to the material being viewed in class.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Grades will be assigned on an absolute basis - that is no grades will be based on a curve. A student's final grade in the course will be based on their journal, weekly papers, final exam and attendance. The preceding assignments will be translated into the following letter grades:

GRADES	PERCENTAGE SCORE
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 -79
D	60 - 69
F	Below 60

VIDEO CAVEAT:

In reality the justice system is harsh in all of its aspects and it deals with individuals who are anti-social at best. The cinema frequently shows the justice system and these individuals in the extreme. The movies are characterizations of reality and that is what this course is designed to examine. However, these characterizations are frequently brutal and can cause discomfort to some viewers. There are scenes of brutality, torture, nudity, sexual acts, perversion and physical and mental anguish. These movies albeit used as learning tools may not be for everyone. If you have any hesitation about these issues please see me, it may be advisable for you to drop this class. The following is a list of some of the videos that will be shown. The exact order of viewing has not yet been established.

An Innocent Man	Inherit the Wind	To Kill a Mocking Bird
The New Centurions	American Me	Fort Apache-The Bronx
The Ox Bow Incident	Billy Budd	12 Angry Men
The Shawshank Redemption	Brubaker	Cool Hand Luke
Dark Wind	Judgement at Nuremburg	Gideon's Trumpet
The Big Easy	Breaker Morant	Blue Knight
Time to Kill	The Detectives	My Cousin Vinny
Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil		

In addition to the above videos each student will be required to select and review one video on their own. The format for the review will be discussed in class. This review will be due on March 25, 2009. Late submissions will **NOT** be accepted. Note: In the event that you have previously taken Justice 410 "Cinematic Images of Justice" you will find some overlap with this course. If you enroll in this class, Justice 410 "Cinematic Images of Justice," and find that you have previously viewed the film being presented, please see me as your assignment will differ from

the rest of the class. The differentiation between your assignment and the rest of the class will be the questions that you will be asked to respond to or and alternate movie may be assigned.

CAMPUS SAFETY:

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 and 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 to contact Campus Police at 786-1120 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.

NOTE - FINAL EXAM IS ON FRIDAY