

PA 344 – LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY
Fall 2008

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Class: 3:30-4:45, TTH, HARV 302

Office Hours: by appointment with faculty or ta's

Teaching Assistants:

Course Description

This class explores the relationships between organizations that make up our contemporary criminal justice system. First we will explore the concept of our systematic assumptions regarding the operation of the CJS: How integrated is the system?; Do Federal and State agencies share information?; Is there a competition for scarce resources that strains any systemic qualities that may exist?

Next, with this information in mind we will explore some basic issues about the operation of the criminal justice system. Our focus here will be on management and structural policies that emanate from the Courts. From Stop and Frisk to Automobile searches we will explore how the landmark decisions of the courts actually impact the operation of organizations within the criminal justice system.

Additionally, we will investigate the growing inclusion of services delivered by private contractors that used to be the responsibility of the government alone? Are these good policies?; Do we see efficiency as a result of privatization?; Can the system distance itself from these private contractors and the way that they carry out their roles?

While this is a lecture course there will be numerous opportunities for students to become involved in an interactive discussion. The dates outlined below are **advisory and may change** as the semester progresses. While all of the material in the texts are beneficial to read we will not deal with each facet of it within the lectures. Moreover, lectures will often contain material not contained in the text; therefore, it is important that you attend, and participate in, lectures as well as keeping up with the assigned readings.

Graded Activities

Exams: There will be three exams; two during the semester and the final. The final exam will be cumulative in the sense that the concepts discussed early in the semester will be used throughout. The exams will consist of a combination of short answers, fill in the blanks and definitions. Exam material will come from the readings and from lecture. In order to do well on the exams, you must read and you must attend class. Videos will often be shown in class. Material from the videos appears on exams. Do not expect to schedule make up viewings of videos. Makeup exams are allowed only with a doctor's note, police report, etc. and only if you contact the professor or teaching assistants, in writing, prior to the exam. Post-exam notifications result in no credit and you may want to consider withdrawing.

Each exam is worth 100 points.

Extra Credit: There may be occasional extra credit opportunities. If you are not present the day an extra credit opportunity is handed out you won't be able to participate. If you hand in the extra credit late it won't count.

Cheating

We have a zero tolerance policy on cheating in this course. We believe cheating is immoral and harmful – not only to you, but to other students who don't cheat. We will not tolerate cheating of any kind. If you cheat, no amount of whining, pleading or threatening will work.

Cheating takes many forms:

- glancing at nearby friends' work during exams,
- using unauthorized notes on exams,
- taking credit for work that someone else did,
- letting someone else do the thinking on your homework assignment,
- plagiarizing information on the Web or from other students' (past or present) work,
- using electronic devices (like cell phones, programmable calculators) to receive information not authorized by the instructor, etc.

The bright side is that you don't *have* to cheat to get a good grade in this course. You **do** have to work hard, you **do** have to find time, you **do** have to think, you **do** have to take timely action, and you **may** feel uncomfortable and fear for your grade at times. These are not justifications for cheating. We are here to help you work through tough ideas and problems, but **you** have to ask.

Here's what happens if we catch you cheating. The first time you cheat: we will immediately fail you in the course, and report your cheating to the University. This information will become a part of your academic record. No second chances. No negotiation.

We assume that you are responsible adults, that you are taking the class to learn something, and that you will avoid unethical behavior. If you have any questions about any of this, or the difference between “cheating” and “getting help”, please see us. We would be happy to talk it over with you. You are responsible for reading and understanding the University's Honor Code – see the link below. By enrolling in the University you are agreeing to follow this code.

University of Arizona Honor Code

(For more details, see: <http://w3.arizona.edu/%7Estudpubs/policies/ppmainpg.html>)

Students assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work they submit. The guiding principle of academic integrity shall be that a student's submitted work, examinations, reports, or projects must be that student's own work, unless clearly following the rules for allowable group work. Students shall be guilty of violating the Code and be subject to proceedings under it if they cheat, fabricate, plagiarize, represent others work as their own. You are responsible for reading and understanding the University's policy as described in the above Web Site.

Academic Misconduct

Academic Misconduct is defined as any behaviors not conforming to prevailing standards or rules within the academic community. *All forms of academic misconduct are subject to sanctions under the Code of Conduct.* Sanctions include: classroom conduct, interim action, program/support, organizational sanctions, restricted

access to university property, administrative hold, warning, probation, suspension, and/or expulsion. Various forms of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to disruptive behavior, threatening behavior, and/or the theft or damage of University property. **(For more details, see: http://ugrad.eller.arizona.edu/academic_integrity/student_resource_guide)**

Important Dates

Labor Day	Sept. 1 (no class)
Last Day to Drop without a W	September 19
Last Day to Drop with a W	October 17
Veterans Day	November 11 (TUESDAY-no class)
Thanksgiving recess	November 27-30 (Thursday to Sunday)
Last Day of Class	December 10
Final Exam	December 18, 2pm-4pm in Harv 302

Course Website

The course website is located at <http://eres.library.arizona.edu>.

Click on “Search for Reserves”.

Use the pulldown for “Select an instructor” and look for Polakowski, Michael.

The password for the course is “PA344001”.

The website contains the course syllabus, PowerPoint slides used in lecture, and some course readings.

If you download the syllabus you may be able to easily access the web based readings by having your browser open and clicking on the reading itself. Alternately, you may have to cut and paste the web address into your browser.

Course Calendar

August 26 – Introduction and Orientation/shopping for classes day

August 28 – What is a System and do we have one in Criminal Justice?

Readings:

Chapter 1: What is a Legal System?

Chapter 2: Law: Formal and Informal.