

CJUS/POLS 110 – Law and Justice
Course Syllabus

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Course Description

'Law and Justice' will examine the development of law and the ever-changing structure of our legal system. This course is designed to provide each student with a basic knowledge and understanding of the law, how it controls our actions, and how they law can work for us. We will discuss our personal rights under the law, how the laws protect us, and any recourse we may have from abuse by the legal system. The law is a system of social thought and behavior that provides the framework from which our disputes are resolved. *'Law and Justice'* will examine the impact that *family law, employee and employer rights and duties, renter and landlord obligations, home ownership law, and civil rights law* have upon our society.

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives for this course are to develop *critical thinking, understanding of concepts, problem solving techniques*, and to improve student performance in the following areas:

- 1 to encourage an exchange of ideas and concerns about the material presented
- 2 to understand the development of law within the United States
- 3 to critically evaluate the decisions and processes used within our legal system

Course Materials

"American Law and Legal Systems" by Calvi and Coleman
handouts / guest speakers / topic discussions

Course Outline

Week One

Introduction and Overview of Course Requirements
Personal Rights and Liberties
The Process of Law
The Nature of Law
Review and Discussion

Week Two

Chapter 9: Environmental Law
Protecting our environment
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Review and Discussion
Test No. 1

Week Three

Chapter 10: Torts
Negligence
Strict Liability
Product Liability
Review and Discussion

Week Four

Chapter 11: Contracts
Formation of Contracts
Breach of Contract
Review and Discussion
Test No. 2

Week Five

Chapter 12: Property
Conflict Between Renters and Landlords

Titles and Liens
 Trusts and Gifts
Review and Discussion

Week Six

Home Ownership Law
 How Do You Find a Home?
 How Real Estate Agents Serve Buyers and Sellers
Review and Discussion
Test No. 3

Week Seven

Chapter 13: Family Law
 What Laws Govern Parenthood?
 Parental Rights and Liabilities
 State Protection of Minors
Review and Discussion

Week Eight

How May A Marriage Be Terminated?
 Spousal Rights and Duties
 How May Family Law Be Modified By Contract?
Review and Discussion
Test No. 4

Week Nine

Employment Law
 Employee and Employer Rights and Duties
 What are the Basic Duties of Employers?
 What are the Basic Duties of Employees?
Review and Discussion

Week Ten

Civil Rights Law
 Racial Discrimination
 Sexual Discrimination
 Affirmative Action
Review and Discussion

Week Eleven

Conclusion
 Law as Protector
 Law as Oppressor
 Law and Economics
Review and Discussion

Week Twelve

Test No. 5

Course Requirements

Testing - five multiple choice exams will be given, each consisting of 60 questions worth 2 points each; students will select any 50 questions to answer. The lowest test score of the first four tests will be discarded. Total: **400 points**

Attendance - students are expected to attend class and participate in classroom discussions; 2 points per day are given for attendance. Total: **100 points**

Discussion Topics - various topics regarding the laws will be passed-out during the quarter for class discussion. Test questions relating to these topics will be on the following exam.

Grading

A+	485 – 500	B+	435 – 450	C+	381 – 400	D+	316 – 340
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A	468 – 484	B	418 – 434	C	361 – 380	D	291 – 315
A-	451 – 467	B-	401 – 417	C-	341 – 360	D-	261 – 290