

Criminal Justice

Class Meeting time(s)

Instructor: Gerald Bowling gbnomos@gmail.com

Office Hours:

I. Rationale:

This course is an introduction to the criminal legal system of the United States. It exists to broaden the perspective and understanding of how the justice system works and its structure. It will walk the students through the different court systems of the United States, touch on landmark judicial decisions in the criminal justice realm, and cover the history of criminal justice.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

A. Aims

This class will be presented in a fun and enjoyable manner to broaden the students' understanding of the justice system in America. It will give students an understanding of major legal decisions, history and rationale behind law enforcement and the judicial system, and give them a working knowledge of basic

B. Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

Understand why the justice system exists. They will have a basic knowledge of the history and theories of justice. Hopefully, they can carry away more confidence using simple measures to lower the probability of crime for them or their community.

III. Format and Procedures:

This class will be structured around lecture and discussion format. Also, some mock role play may be done for artificial courtroom sessions. A copy of The Constitution (which can be found for free online), as well as other legal documents (usually state legislative documents which are also found online) will be required reading. Journal and legal articles will be sent ahead of the weekly class.

Class participation is encouraged. The mock courtroom sessions will require it when doing the class.

Attendance and punctuality are encouraged. Technological and internet issues are understandable and happen at unfortunate times, however I ask all students to be a part of the life of the class.

IV. My Assumptions

This is an introductory level course. It assumes no familiarity with the subject matter. It is a relaxed introduction to the justice system.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Prerequisites: No prerequisites required.
2. Class attendance : Participation and attendance are strongly encouraged.
3. Course readings:
 - (a) The Constitution, Landmark Court decisions and other legal documents (all found online):
 - (b) Use of LearnDash files; Download and bring handouts to class and ability to pull up websites online where legal documents will be available

VI. Expectations for Parents

- Set aside a calm, quiet, distraction-free space for your child(ren) to work every day.
- Ensure virtual learning equipment is available and charged.
- Establish routines and expectations and a basic schedule for completing classwork.
- Help students ‘own’ their learning.
- Check LearnDash for communications from teachers and help students print off resources that are provided.
- Stay abreast of teacher feedback in the form of grades or other messages. ● Proctor tests, quizzes, or other assessments as scheduled by the teacher. Parents ensure academic integrity because they are on the “live” side of the screen.
- Communicate with teachers regularly via email or LearnDash regarding any questions or issues that arise.
- If your child is having trouble completing work, email teachers to schedule a time for an online meeting.

VII. Grading Procedures

Grades will be weighted on the following scale:

50% Completed work

30% participation

20% Quizzes and tests

Late work will be graded with 5 points off unless there is a legitimate extenuating circumstance which led to the late paper.

VIII. Academic Integrity

Christian virtue is expected to be followed in this course. Please make your work honest and your own.

IX. Tentative Course Schedule

This is a tentative listing of the course topics, but it is tentative.

- History of justice studies
- Divisions and reasoning of law enforcement
- The Constitution and rights
- Court structures
- Legal code
- Juvenile Justice system
- Criminal justice process
- Technology in justice
- Crime and punishment
- Crime reduction

X. Additional Resource Readings

For students who wish to challenge themselves, I will give additional reading for extra credit. These will be Orthodox related writers expressing their views related to Criminal justice. For instance, Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment. The student could gain extra credit for the effort of reading these materials.