I. Course Information

Instructor Information:

Location: HIL-103
Office Hours: by appointment
Phone: 201-204-3487
Email: karen.desoto@rutgers.edu or profd@earthlink.net
Dr. Karen DeSoto

Course Overview:

This Course explores criminal laws and judicial opinions that influence the policies, procedures, personnel, and clients of the criminal justice system in the United States. Specific topics include, but not limited to, the origin, development, and continuing changes in criminal law, administration of criminal justice, and the criminal courts.

B.S. Criminal Justice Program Learning Goals:

Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark, students should be able to:

1) Describe the development and functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g., police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice), the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as well as the broader social, political, and economic world.

2) Describe the mechanisms, correlates, theoretical underpinnings, and situational contexts of crime, criminal behavior and opportunity, and techniques for prevention and treatment.

3) Apply and analyze theories related to the policies and practices of the criminal justice system and its
major institutions.

4) Demonstrate the ability to gather, explain, and apply empirical research in the field of criminal justice.

5) Obtain a comprehensive knowledge about the process of conducting criminal justice research, and develop the skills to conduct criminal justice research with appropriate methodologies.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the roles of courtroom actors: the prosecutor, defense attorney, judge, jurors, court clerks, and court officers;
2. Understand the different types of courts in the US: federal, state, municipal, and administrative;
3. Identify and understand the criminal court process from arrest through sentencing;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of real world factors, for example: large caseloads in the criminal justice process.

For example, as an outcome of taking this course, students who fully engage with the course material will be able to read in-depth media accounts of current criminal cases and understand the dynamics between the parties and the current procedural stage of the case. Students who successfully complete the coursework will be capable of explaining the court system and case processing at a level appropriate to juror orientation.

**Required Readings:**


Students will be using an online digital book along with the online assignments. If you would also like to have the paper copy of the book in addition to the digital book you may order it for an extra $20.00 fee. Students will need to have an online access code for the online book and assignments on blackboard that will be linked from Cengage Publishing MindTap. (Cengage.com). You can access the book online at cengage.com or from blackboard.

The access code is free for the first 14 days after that you can purchase the access code online or through the Rutgers bookstore. The access code include the online digital book plus the MindTap
assignments. Instructions for registering for the Digital Book and online assignments is on Blackboard under the folder “CENGAGE MINDTAP REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS”. If you have any questions we will go over the instructions in detail on the first day of class.

Selected readings that are not included in your online textbook such as cases or academic articles, if assigned, will be made available on Blackboard under the “Assignments” section in .pdf format.

**Course Requirements:**
Students are required to read assigned readings and participate in classroom discussions in a manner that reflects familiarity with the readings and previous class sessions. Students are required to access Blackboard regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements.

Blackboard will used for all of your assignments, check it regularly. The syllabus, assignments, grading rubrics, and reading assignments will be posted and accepted through Blackboard. Additional assignments may occur as the semester proceeds and will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. You are responsible for everything posted on Blackboard, whether or not it is mentioned in class. Checking blackboard regularly since course assignments, due dates, and our syllabus may be subject to changes.

**Course Structure:**
Course content will be a mixture of traditional lectures, class discussions, guest speakers, video presentations, and on-site visits. Additionally, there will be several in-class activities, exercises and assignments.

**II. Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 1/17</td>
<td><strong>Introduction: Law, Crime, Courts and Controversy</strong></td>
<td>Review Syllabus Chapter 1 lecture and discussion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2 1/22, 1/24</td>
<td><strong>Federal and State Courts</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 2 &amp;3 lecture; group discussion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 1/29, 1/31</td>
<td><strong>Juvenile Courts Dynamics of Courthouse Justice</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 4and 5; group discussion regarding the different levels of trial and appellate courts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 2/5, 2/7</td>
<td><strong>Prosecutors &amp; Defense Attorneys</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 6 &amp; 7; lecture; group discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 2/12, 2/14</td>
<td><strong>Judges</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 8; lecture only. In Class Exercise on appointed vs. elected judges Quiz #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 2/19, 2/21</td>
<td><strong>Defendants, Victims, and Witnesses</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 9; lecture; group discussion.</td>
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### Week 7
2/26, 2/28
**From Arrest to Arraignment**
- Plea Bargaining

**Quiz #2; Chapter 10 lecture; group discussion**

### Week 8
3/5, 3/7
**Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence**

**Chapter 11; lecture; group discussion.**

### 3/12-3/16
**Spring Break**

### Week 9
3/19, 3/21
**Instructions for Mini – mock trial assignments/ roles/meet groups.**

**Instructions for Mini – mock trial assignments/ roles/meet groups.**

### Week 10
3/26, 3/28
**Instructions for Mini – mock trial assignments/ roles/meet groups.**

**Negotiated Justice/Guilty Plea**

**Chapter 12; lecture; group discussion**

### Week 11
4/2, 4/4
**Trials & Juries**

**Library Session Meet in lobby of Dana library**

### Week 12
4/9, 4/11
**Sentencing Options and Decisions**

**Chapter 14; group discussion.**

### Week 13
4/16, 4/18
**Appellate and Habeas Corpus**

**Quiz #3; Chapters 15; group discussion**

### Week 14
4/23, 4/25
**The Constitution and Bill of Rights**

**Mock Trial Presentations**

### Week 15
5/30, 5/2
**Mock Trial Presentations**

**READING DAY NO CLASS**

### Week 16
**FINAL EXAM WEEK 5/3 to 5/9**

**FINAL EXAM WEEK 5/3 to 5/9**

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### III. Grading

The final grade will be assessed based upon performance on the following:

1. **Attendance** (10%)  
   - CLO 1-4
2. **MINDTAP assignments & quizzes** (50%)  
   - CLO 1-3
3. **Mock Trial** (15%)  
   - CLO 1, 2
4. **Final** (25%)  
   - CLO 2-4

**Mock Trial Presentation** (15%): Student Group Mock Trial Presentations will be worth 15% of your Final Grade. This presentation will be a mini mock trial session where the students will perform a simulated criminal trial.
QUIZZES and MINDTAP ASSIGNMENTS (50 %): Mindtap Assignments and Quizzes are worth 50% of your final grade. All assignments can be found on blackboard and have different points totals depending on the difficulty of the assignment.

FINAL PAPER (25 %): The final will be graded on a 100-point scale. See Blackboard for the grading Rubric. This assignment is worth 30% of the final grade.

ATTENDANCE (10%): A percentage of your grade is based on class participation and attendance.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and crucial to your success in this course. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to identify missed content and turn in missed assignments. Missing more than 3 classes will impact your grade.

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90–100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>85-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Late or Missing Assignment Policy: Attendance for this course is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at the start of every class. Students are permitted two unexcused absences. Starting with a student’s third unexcused absence, points will be deducted from their final grade. Late assignments will not be accepted without permission and a valid medical or bereavement excuse.

IV. Course Policies

V. Classroom Rules

All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. Laptops are permitted only if disengaged from the internet and other electronic devices should be stored away unless you specifically seek the instructor’s permission. In this class, we may have discussions that challenge our taken for granted assumptions about crime and justice. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even examine their own beliefs about the issues. While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark interesting discussion, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward other class members about their experiences, backgrounds, or statements will NOT be tolerated. NO RECORDING, VIDEOTAPING, OR PICTURE TAKING WITHOUT PERMISSION.
**Academic Integrity**
As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students [http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity](http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity)

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university’s policy will result in appropriate action.

**Academic Resources**

**Students with Disabilities**
Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/) or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Kate Torres  
Coordinator of ADA Services and Academic Support  
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352  
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973.353.5300  
Fax: 973.353.5666  
E-mail: kate.torres@rutgers.edu  
Website: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/)

**Psychological and Counseling Services**
If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university’s psychological and counseling service center ([http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu; 973-353-5805](http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu; 973-353-5805)), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers.

If you are interested in finding out more about:  
- **Accelerated Master's Program (B.S. /M.A.)**  
- **Criminal Justice National Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma)**  
Please refer to the School of Criminal Justice website [http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/](http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/)