

“The higher you climb, the more that you see. The more that you see, the less that you know. The less that you know, the more that you yearn. The more that you yearn, the higher you climb. The farther you reach, the more that you touch. The more that you touch, the fuller you feel. The fuller you feel, the less that you need. The less that you need, the farther you reach.”

-Dan Fogelberg

PROFESSOR: David B. Houston
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CLASS HOURS: T/TH 2:00 – 3:20 pm
CLASSROOM: A209
OFFICE HOURS: T/TH 8:00-9:00

TEXTBOOK(S):

Law, Justice and Society, Walsh, Anthony & Hemmens, Craig, Oxford University Press, (2016) 4th edition, ISBN: 978-0-19-027275-3

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“The nature, functions, limitations and objectives of law; civil procedure; civil law and selected social problems, for example abortion, euthanasia; the civil courts; the grand jury and petit jury; torts; civil liability for police and correctional officers; family law.”

(Undergraduate catalog)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To become familiar with the function and define the proper use of law and informal social control mechanisms in American society.
2. To be able to describe sources of law and how law is made.
3. To be able to apply legal analysis and critical thinking to novel issues.
4. To identify and discuss ethical dilemmas in the foundations of law

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

1. Attendance Policy: Per university policy regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University. Attendance is defined as attending the entire class. I do not acknowledge any type of absence, excused or otherwise. Since attendance is an expectation, extra credit will not be given for attending nor will I penalize you for not attending. If the classroom door is closed, there is no further admittance. No exceptions.
2. Academic Dishonesty Policy: Students are expected to do their own work. Under no circumstances will academic dishonesty be tolerated. Any student caught violating the student honor code will lose all designated points for that requirement. A second infraction will result in an F for the course and referral to the dean for possible further disciplinary action. All intellectual dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating, is strictly forbidden.

Simple plagiarism is occasionally using words or ideas from outside sources without documenting the sources. As a penalty, the professor may require the work to be resubmitted with documentation and/or require the student to work on documentation at the library. Second instances of simple plagiarism escalate to consequences for aggravated plagiarism. (See below)

Aggravated plagiarism is purchasing a paper, having another person write a paper, or extensive copying of words or ideas from outside sources without documentation. Penalties range from receiving a zero for the assignment to receiving a grade of F for the course. Penalty for an aggravated plagiarism infraction will be at the discretion of the professor.

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS
AND FACILITIES: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

3. Telephones and similar devices have become increasingly a part of everyday life. In the academic classroom, however, during class these devices can be a serious distraction and during tests they can be a serious problem. The technology is constantly changing and evolving. So, the present policy does not specify particular devices or device types. Rather, the policy applies to any device that performs the function of a telephone or text message. The use by students of electronic devices that perform the function of a telephone or text message during class-time is prohibited if deemed disruptive by the instructor to the conduct of the class. Arrangements for handling potential emergency situations may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to comply with the instructor's policy could result in expulsion from the classroom or with multiple offenses, failure of the course. Any use of a telephone or text message or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited, except when expressly permitted by the instructor. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty.

4. There will be a mid-term exam covering the law and related components and a final exam that will cover society and related components. (See class schedule below). These exams are designed to help improve student understanding of the material. Exams are based on class lecture, PowerPoint (when used) handouts, external links, and the textbook. The mid-term and final (non-cumulative) are worth 100 points each.

5. Additionally, there will be 5 (five) writing assignments based on current, controversial and debatable events, due according to the class calendar. Each writing assignment must be a minimum of 500 words. Writing assignment instructions are forthcoming. Each writing assignment is worth 20 points. Late papers will not be accepted. Further, writing assignments may **not** be made up.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

The midterm exam may be made up for any reason. The make-up exam may be both objective and subjective. **Make up day is Tuesday, November 28, 2017.** A sign-up sheet will be distributed for the 2 classes immediately after the mid-term. To be eligible for the make-up exam, you must sign the sheet. If you elect to take a make-up exam that will be your grade, even if it is lower than the original exam. The final may not be made up without approval from the department chair.

COMMUNICATION

Generally, I do not answer emails. I prefer face-to-face meetings as they are typically more productive and effective than emails. To that end, you may contact me during my office hours or make an appointment for other times. Please be advised, appointment times are very limited.

GRADING:

GRADING SUMMARY		GRADING CRITERIA	
Mid-term	100	A	300-267
Writing Assignment #1	20	B	266-234
Writing Assignment #2	20	C	233-201
Writing Assignment #3	20	D	200-174
Writing Assignment #4	20	F	Below 174
Writing Assignment #5	20		
Final	100		
TOTAL POINTS	300		

EXTRA CREDIT

Per the SHSU website, Academic Community Engagement (ACE) is a teaching method that combines community engagement with academic instruction. The ACE initiative allows students to use the skills and knowledge learned in the classroom to make a difference and improve life in our community by understanding their roles as community members. To qualify for this extra credit you must:

- Volunteer at a non-profit institution or non-profit business for a minimum of 8 hours between August 23, 2017 and November 29, 2017.
- Write a 500-word reflection paper documenting where you volunteered, your duties, and what you learned from your volunteering experience.
- Complete all paperwork related to the project
- Participation is voluntary; however, if you successfully complete all requirements, 15 points will be added to your semester grade. Partial credit will not be given.
- Extra Credit is due by the beginning of class on Thursday, November 30, 2017 but may be turned in any time prior to that date.

CLASS CALENDAR: The professor reserves the right to amend the class calendar based on current events, other time constraints or just because.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
LAW	
August 24	Syllabus Review
August 29	Origins of Law
August 31	Purpose of Law
September 5	Purpose of Law
September 7	Justice and Law, Writing Assignment #1 Due
September 12	Justice and Law
September 14	Justice and Law
September 19	Administrative Law
September 21	Criminal Law
September 26	Criminal Law
September 28	Civil Law, Writing Assignment #2 Due
October 3	Civil Law
October 5	Midterm
SOCIETY	
October 10, 12	Class Without Walls
October 17	Social Control, Writing Assignment #3 Due
October 19	Social Control
October 24	Victimless Crimes
October 26	Victimless Crimes
October 31	Death Penalty, Writing Assignment #4 Due
November 2	Death Penalty
November 7	Society and Women
November 9	Society and Women
November 14	Society and Minorities, Writing Assignment #5 Due
November 16	Society and Minorities
November 21	Society and Minorities
November 28	Make Up Exam
November 30	Extra Credit Due
December 5 3:30-5:30	Final Exam