

**Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Law and Society CRIJ 4330.01 Spring 2018**

“Education is about the questions, not the answers”

PROFESSOR: David B. Houston
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CLASS HOURS: T/TH 11:00am – 12:20pm
CLASSROOM: A115
OFFICE HOURS: T/TH 12:30-1:30pm

TEXTBOOK(S):

Law and Society, Lippman, Matthew, Sage Publishing (2018) 2e,
ISBN: 978-1-50-636227-4

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.

EXAMS

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 120 points each.

PAPERS

5. Additionally, there will be 4 (four) 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 15 points. Late papers will not be accepted. Further, writing assignments may **not** be made up.

You will be graded in the following areas:

- Concise (but complete) – Don't try to fill your paper with unnecessary words to hit the magic 500 - word-count. Did you follow the instructions?
- Coherent – Is your paper easy to read? Do I have to re-read sentences to understand what they mean? Use proper, grown-up academic words. Colloquialisms have no place in research or college papers. Words like 'dude', 'awesome' and 'hooters' are good for dorm rooms but not classrooms. Do not rely on spell check as your final proofreading source. Omitting the letter 'l' from public changes the meaning of the entire sentence.
- Competent - Do you know what you are writing about? Is your writing accurate? Do your outside sources coincide or conflict with the text material and are your outside sources academic in nature?

Papers are due via Blackboard no later than the dates listed on the class calendar in this syllabus. Each paper is worth 15 points.

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, May 1, 2018. 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.

COMMUNICATION

Generally, I do not answer emails. I will **not** answer an email from a personal account; only a Sam Houston State account and then only through this class Blackboard website. I

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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, before or after class or anytime you see me in the halls.

GRADING:

GRADING SUMMARY		GRADING CRITERIA	
Mid-term	120	A	300-267
4 Writing Assignments	60	B	266-237
Final	120	C	236-204
		D	203-174
		F	Below 174
TOTAL	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 January 1, 2018 – April 30, 2018.
- 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, May 3, 2018 but may be turned in any time prior to that date.

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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	
January 18	Syllabus Review
January 23 - 30	Purpose of Law
January 25	Paper #1 Due
February 1 – 8	Justice
February 13 – 15	Theories
February 20 – 22	Constitutional Law
February 27	Administrative Law
March 1	Paper #2 Due
March 1 – 6	Civil Law
March 8	Midterm
March 13 – 15	Spring Break
SOCIETY	
March 20 -22	Victimless Crimes
March 27	Paper #3 Due
March 27 – 29	Death Penalty
April 3 – 5	Social Control
April 10 – 24	Society and Minorities
April 26	Paper #4 Due
April 26	Privacy and Surveillance
May 1	Make Up Exam
May 3	Extra Credit Due
May 8 3:30-5:30	Final Exam