

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for AJ 62

THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Effective: Spring 2017

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 62 — THE JUSTICE SYSTEM — 3.00 units

Roles and responsibilities of each segment within the Administration of Justice system: law enforcement, judicial, corrections. Past, present and future exposure to each sub-system procedure from initial entry to final disposition and the relationship each segment maintains with its system members.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. explain the legal concepts covering the operations of the criminal justice system;
2. list the procedures involved from arrest to release;
3. discuss legal concepts and make decisions about the prosecution of a case;
4. describe the major elements of each segment of the system and how each relates to the preparation of a case;
5. describe the relationship of community service organizations to the justice system.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Overview of the justice process
 1. Law enforcement, the court system, corrections
 2. Sub systems, from arrest to release
 3. The challenge of sub system cooperation
- B. Legal authorization for the system
 1. The United States and California constitutions
 2. The California Penal Code
 3. Other related legal provisions
- C. Civil rights implications
 1. Constitutional guarantees and the Bill of Rights
 2. Effects on system members
 3. Recent court interpretations
- D. The police process
 1. Police powers
 2. The arrest process
 - a. Pre arrest – the exclusionary rule and probable cause
 - b. The arrest – searches and seizures
 - c. Post arrest process
- E. The role of the coroner/medical examiner
 1. Legal considerations
 2. Responsibilities of the office(s)
 3. The inquest process
- F. Grand jury
 1. Historical factors
 2. Function and authority
 3. Selection process
- G. Role of the court
 1. Court structure and jurisdiction
 2. The arraignment and preliminary hearing
 3. Roles of prosecuting and defense attorneys
 4. Trial procedures – judicial responsibilities

5. Venue, pleadings, appearances and proceedings
6. Verdict and sentencing process
- H. Correctional processes
 1. General philosophy
 2. Post-sentencing procedures
 3. Types of facilities
 4. Rehabilitation and treatment
 5. Parole
- I. Juvenile procedures
- J. Community service organizations
 1. Types and purposes
 2. Role in prevention and rehabilitation

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Discussion** - Seminar-style
- C. **Field Trips** - Community-based
- D. **Demonstration** -
- E. Case studies
- F. **Guest Lecturers** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Present a brief written report on one of the following community-service organizations: narcotics rehabilitation homes, alcohol rehabilitation homes, suicide prevention centers, youth centers. B. After receiving class handouts, prepare for a class discussion on the topic, "Rehabilitation – Reality or Myth." C. Visit a local correctional facility and prepare a brief oral report.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Oral Presentation
4. Class Participation

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency of Evaluation
 - a. Attendance and participation will be evaluated daily.
 - b. Written and oral presentations will be assigned and graded periodically throughout the term.
 - c. Quizzes will appear intermittently throughout the term with the midterm near the mid point and the final at the end.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Stuckey, Gilbert B *Procedures in the Justice System*, ., Charles E. Merrill Publishing Company., 0.
2. Eskridge, Chris W *Criminal Justice, Concepts and Issues*., Roxbury Publishers., 0.
3. Barlow, Hugh D *Criminal Justice in America*., Pearson/Prentice Hall Publishing, 0.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: