

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for AJ 50

INTRO TO ADMIN OF JUSTICE

Effective: Fall 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 50 — INTRO TO ADMIN OF JUSTICE — 3.00 units

History and philosophy of administration of justice in America; recapitulation of the system; identifying the various subsystems, role expectations, and their interrelationships; theories of crime, punishment, and rehabilitation; ethics, education and training for professionalism in the system.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Administration of Justice

	MIN
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:

- Discuss the evolution of the criminal justice system, including the history, development, structure, and function of American police, courts, and corrections
- Explain the interrelationship of the various criminal justice agencies including probation, parole, community corrections, prisons, and jails
- List the causal theories, criminal types and societal factors used to explain the nature of modern crime
- Articulate the scope of the crime problem in present-day America and discuss the methods, theories, and concepts associated with crime data, emerging patterns of criminal activity, and the cost of crime
- Identify and describe special issues in the criminal justice system involving juvenile delinquency, drugs, and the future development
- Explain an individual's constitutionally guaranteed rights
- List the attributes of professionalism expected in criminal justice personnel
- Critically analyze and discuss issues of crime and justice from varying perspectives and utilize conclusions from scholarly research in creating informed positions on controversial issues in criminal justice
- Effectively follow the appropriate writing style practiced in the social sciences

V. CONTENT:

- Crime and the criminal justice system
 - Historical development
 - Current trends
 - Federal involvement
- The criminal justice system
 - Governmental structure
 - Agencies of the criminal justice system
 - The criminal justice process
- The nature of crime and victimization
 - The concept of crime
 - How crime is measured
 - Crime rates – patterns and trends
 - Victimization data
- The causes of crime
 - The classical view of personal responsibility
 - Biological theory
 - Sociological theories
 - Conflict theory
- Criminal Law
 - Historical development
 - Purposes of criminal law
 - Sources of criminal law

- a. Common law
 - b. Case decisions
 - c. Administrative rule making
 - d. Constitutional law
- F. Classification and legal definitions of crimes
- G. Criminal responsibility
- H. The criminal defense
- I. Roles of the police
 - 1. Patrol procedures
 - 2. Investigative techniques
 - 3. Changing concepts
 - 4. Community oriented policing
- J. Issues in policing
 - 1. Professionalism
 - 2. The police culture and personality
 - 3. Changing composition of the police force
 - a. Role of education
 - b. Inclusion of minorities
 - c. Increased role of female police officers
- K. Police and the rule of law
 - 1. Identifying criminal behavior
 - 2. Search and seizure
 - 3. Surveillance
 - 4. Custodial interrogation
 - 5. Exclusionary rule
- L. Courts and the judiciary
 - 1. Structure of the system
 - 2. Criminal court processes
 - 3. Prosecution
 - 4. Defense
 - 5. Right to counsel
- M. Procedures following arrest
 - 1. Bail
 - 2. Preventative detention
 - 3. The process of indictment
 - 4. Plea bargaining
- N. Trial procedures
- O. Punishment
 - 1. History and philosophy
 - 2. Goals
 - 3. Sentencing strategies
 - 4. Capital punishment
- P. Corrections
 - 1. History of correctional institutions
 - 2. Jails and prisons
 - 3. The correctional population
 - 4. Probation and parole
- Q. Juvenile Justice
 - 1. Historical development
 - 2. Juvenile court jurisdiction
 - 3. Trial, disposition, and treatment

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Discussion** -
- C. Student group project and reports
- D. **Guest Lecturers** - from the various branches of the criminal justice system
- E. Case studies of recent court decisions

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Visit a selected justice facility – police station, courtroom, jail – and provide a three-page summary report.
- B. Homework assignments answering chapter study questions
- C. Brief oral and written report on student group project
- D. Written analysis of case study of recent court decision

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Quizzes
- 3. Research Projects
- 4. Papers
- 5. Field Trips
- 6. Class Participation
- 7. Home Work

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Daily attendance
- 2. Periodic quizzes and exams
- 3. Semester long research project and paper
- 4. Class participation
- 5. Field trips, once a semester
- 6. Periodic homework assignments
- 7. Midterm and Final Exams

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Fagin, J.. *CJ 2017*. 1st ed., Pearson, 2018.
- 2. Senna, Joseph, and Larry Siegel. *Introduction to Criminal Justice*. 16th ed., Wadsworth Publishing, 2017.
- 3. Schmalleger, F.. *Criminal Justice Today, An Introductory Text for the 21st Century*. 14th ed., Pearson , 2016.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: