

Las Positas College  
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## Course Outline for AJ 62

### THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Effective: Fall 2004

#### 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>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	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. **Discussion** - Seminar-style
- B. **Guest Lecturers** -
- C. **Lecture** -
- D. Case studies
- E. **Field Trips** - Community-based
- F. **Demonstration** -

#### 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: