CJ 4365 Comparative Criminal Justice

FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. David Spencer is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Criminal Justice at Texas State University-San Marcos. Dr. Spencer has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Texas at Austin, a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law, an M.A. in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. In his career, Dr. Spencer has been a defense lawyer, a prosecutor and a judge.

You may contact Dr. Spencer by e-mail at: ds15@txstate.edu.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This Comparative Criminal Justice course is a survey of the organizational, administrative, and philosophical principles of criminal justice systems around the world.

Prerequisite: CJ 1310 and 2310 or 2355

COURSE GOALS

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

- define terms commonly used in comparative criminal justice;
- explain reasons for comparing systems of criminal justice;
- define and apply the Historical Political approach to comparative criminal justice;
- explain the basic values in criminal justice systems;
- distinguish between political culture and politicized justice;
- identify the reasons for measuring crime and comparing crime data;
- compare crime rates in different countries;
- describe ancient and lesser-employed legal traditions;
- define Public, Private, Civil and Criminal law;
- evaluate the main families of criminal law, including
  - Civil Law,
  - Common Law,
  - Socialist Law,
  - Sacred Law, and
  - Hybrid Legal Traditions;
- compare the Model Nations used in the textbook:
England,
France,
Germany,
China,
Japan, and
Saudi Arabia;

- explain the functions of police agencies in the model countries;
- distinguish among the Adversarial System, the Inquisitorial System and the Popular (Mixed) system of criminal procedure;
- differentiate among Common Law, Civil Law, Socialist Law, Islamic Law and hybrid criminal law systems;
- appraise systems of Constitutional Review;
- evaluate Supranational Courts;
- compare the functions of legal professionals;
- distinguish the purposes of criminal sanctions and sentencing practices;
- describe the evolution of prison systems;
- explain the penal policies in the model nations;
- define the term Terrorism;
- describe the historical background of terrorism;
- analyze the goals of terrorism;
- list foreign terrorist groups;
- describe responses to international terrorism;
- define international organized crime;
- describe the scope of international organized crime;
- explain international responses to organized crime;
- describe the problem of international juvenile delinquency;
- distinguish among methods for adjudicating juveniles in the model nations;
- describe the methods used for correcting juveniles in the model nations; and
- compare methods for delinquency prevention.

COURSE MATERIALS

Your textbook for this course is:


ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Reading and Quizzes
This course is organized into 12 lessons. In each lesson you will be assigned a chapter for reading. After reading each chapter, you will take a quiz on the material presented in the text. The quiz is in the format of a short essay. Your responses should be thorough yet concise. Quizzes will be graded on the factual responses to each question. Each quiz is worth 10 points.

There may be multiple questions within each quiz. Each question has been assigned a specific number of points. It is your responsibility to read the assignment instructions carefully. You will only receive points for the questions you have answered. Following the submission of each quiz, the instructor will post points earned on the quiz in Grades.

Discussions

You must post to Discussions for each of the 12 lessons in this course, 12 discussions in all. Each discussion response is worth 10 points. Forums will be graded according to the Discussion Rubric provided with each discussion prompt. There may be multiple questions within each forum. You will only receive points for the questions you answer. Since this is a correspondence course, there is little student-student interaction required. However, there may be (and probably are) other students in this course. You are welcome and encouraged to interact with classmates within the discussion forums, including responding to another students post. When responding to another student, please adhere to the following rules:

- Respect the views of others even if you disagree. You may express disagreement but do so without any harsh words or potentially inflammatory remarks. It is okay to disagree with a person’s ideas, but it is not okay to attack that person. Try to be descriptive and invoke well-reasoned arguments.
- Offensive or abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Do not criticize the grammar and spelling of those making responses. In this case, as with gifts, it is most definitely the thought that counts. As the teacher, I may point out mistakes in a private email message.

Final Paper

The final for this course is a 15-page formal paper on a topic that you will select. The topic must be related to the criminal justice systems of one or more countries outside of the United States. Please note the following:

- To encourage you to start on the paper early, you will submit a proposed topic no later than your submission of the Lesson 6 Discussion and Quiz. If you submit an acceptable topic by this deadline, you will receive an additional 10 points toward your final grade.
- The final paper will be due following the completion of Lesson 12.
- The final paper is worth 60 points.
- You will find specific instructions for submitting the topic and final paper in Modules in Lessons 6 and 12.
- You may not resubmit the final paper after it has been graded.

Course Evaluation
The purpose of the course evaluation is to provide information about the course content, process, interaction, etc. so that it can be improved based on your feedback.

**Grades**

The 12 quizzes and discussions total 240 points. The final paper is worth 60 points, bringing the overall point total to 300. There is also one opportunity for 10 extra credit points if you submit your paper topic no later than your submission of the Lesson 6 Discussion and Quiz, for a total of 310 points.

The final letter grade will be determined based on the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>270 - 300 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>240 to 269 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>210 to 239 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>180 to 209 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
<td>Less than 180 points</td>
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**EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT WRITING**

For all written assignments (including quizzes and discussion forum posts), you are expected to have adequate writing skills to communicate content in a professional manner. This is a writing intensive course. Therefore, students must be proficient when completing the quizzes, posting forum responses, and writing the final paper. This includes development of ideas, writing style, wording, phrasing, correct spelling and punctuation. When using research, students must cite the source of the information and provide a reference for the research used.

You are expected to take the quizzes and forums seriously - these are not blogs, tweets, or Facebook posts. If you need help with your writing, Texas State University provides several opportunities for assistance as described in the first Module of this course. You are responsible for obtaining the help that you need.

**COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Email is the most reliable way to reach the instructor. The instructor will respond to email within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. It is also the most reliable way for the instructor to reach you since all Texas State students have an email address provided by the university. I know that many people today prefer other forms of social media, but not all students have universal access to those systems. It is your responsibility to check your email messages every day for information about the course.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE LOGISTICS**
Every Texas State University student (including correspondence students) is accountable for abiding by the tenets of required conduct outlines in the Texas State Student Handbook located at http://www.dos.txstate.edu/handbook/rules.html.

Students should create a learning environment and refrain from interfering with the learning of fellow students. When voicing your opinion(s) in the course, feel free to agree or disagree. However, you will be expected to voice your opinion in a polite and civil manner. This is an upper-level course. Each student is expected to demonstrate a commitment to learning through attitude and work ethic. Specifically, each class member will be expected to submit assignments correctly and treat other class members with respect.

This correspondence course is taught totally online. Online course are different from traditional face-to-face courses in that there will not be an opportunity for face-to-face interaction with the instructor. Therefore, you will need to utilize self-discipline, time management and organization skills. If you have questions you are welcome to contact the instructor.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Office of Distance and Extended Learning is committed to helping students with disabilities achieve their educational goals. A disability is not a barrier to correspondence study, and we strive to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals in coursework and test taking. Students who require special accommodations need to provide verification of their disability to the Office of Disability Services, (http://www.ods.txstate.edu/), Suite 5-5.1 LBJ Student Center, 512-245-3451 (voice/TTY). Students should then notify the Office of Distance and Extended Learning at corrstudy@txstate.edu of any disability-related accommodation needs as soon as possible to avoid a delay in accommodations.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

The Texas State Academic Honor Code applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The Honor Code serves as an affirmation that the University demands the highest standard of integrity in all actions related to the academic community.