

**CRIMINOLOGY 416/516 - SYMPOSIUM ON THE  
CRIMINAL COURT SYSTEM - FALL 2005  
11:00 AM – 12:15 AM, Tues. & Thurs.  
Mrs. Lisa Kay Decker**

Instructor:	Office Hours:
Mrs. Lisa Kay Decker, J.D. 233 Holmstedt Hall 812.237.2180 (my office) 812.237.2191 (Criminology Office) email: <a href="mailto:crdecker@isugw.indstate.edu">crdecker@isugw.indstate.edu</a>	Tues: 9:00 am - 9:30 am & 12:15 pm -2:00 pm Wed: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Thurs: 9:00 am - 9:30 am & 12:15 pm -2:00 pm And by appointment

### **Required Texts**

America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System (8<sup>th</sup> Edition) - Neubauer, David W.  
A Time To Kill – John Grisham

### **Course Description**

This course provides an examination of the American criminal court system. Topics covered will include interaction of the courts with other agencies in the CJS, the organization of the court system, the various personnel and their roles in the court system, the progress of a criminal prosecution from charging to appeal and the juvenile court system.

### **Office Hours**

I encourage each and every student to take the opportunity to stop by and see me during my office hours! Although I make every effort to be available during these hours, there are times when conflicts in my schedule require me to vary my office hours. I will make announcements in class, in advance, about additional office hours or changes in office hours. If you want to make sure I will be available to speak with you at a specific time during my office hours, you may make an appointment in advance. Contacting me by e-mail is effective as I check my e-mail several times a day. If you are unable to contact me about a question or problem, please contact my graduate assistant. Contact information for my graduate assistant can be found on the course website under "staff information."

## Course Web Site

**The web site is an integral part of the course.** I will use it to post the syllabus, announcements, assignments, grades, course notes, and information on any changes in the class schedule. I also use the e-mail function on the course web site to inform students about changes or important deadlines from time to time. I suggest that you check the web site and your e-mail frequently, especially if you have been absent from class.

## Grading

Grades will be based upon five exams throughout the semester, a paper and class attendance and participation. The five exams may vary to include in-class writing assignments, take-home assignments and more traditional, in-class exams. As the date for each exam approaches, I will provide more specific information about the type of exam. The assignment for the paper will be posted on the course website no later than the end of the first week of the semester and there will be due dates for various portions of the paper during the course of the semester. There will be no final exam during final exam week. The paper is in lieu of a final exam. **25 points of your grade will be based on class attendance and participation.** See the following "Tentative Schedule of Assignments and Exams" for reading assignments and projected assignment dates.

### THE EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENT WILL BE VALUED AS FOLLOWS:

Exam 1	25 points
Exam 2	25 points
Exam 3	25 points
Exam 4	25 points
Exam 5	25 points
Attendance & participation	25 points
Final Semester Project	100 points
Total possible for the course	250 points

### GRADING SCALE

A	225 - 250 points
B+	217 - 224 points
B	200 - 216 points
C+	192 - 199 points
C	175 - 191 points
D+	167 - 174 points
D	150 - 166 points
F	0 - 149 points

**NOTE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY!!!** - In addition to all other course requirements, graduate students are required to do an additional project, which will be worth 100 points. The exact requirements for this assignment will be posted on the course website no later than the end of the first week of class. Portions of the graduate assignment will be due during the course of the semester.

## **Tentative Schedule of Assignments and Exams**

The following schedule is an estimate of the dates for various readings, assignments and exams. **Students will be responsible for knowledge of any changes** to the Tentative Schedule of Assignments and Exams, which may be announced in class. Students are expected to have **completed the assigned readings prior to class and should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings during class.**

August 25 - Introduction to the course and its objectives, discussion about vigilante justice, and highlights of Chapter 1 - Courts, Crime and Controversy

August 30 – Chapter 2 -**Pages 24 - 34 only (up to A Civil Law@)** Begin Chapter 3 - Federal Courts. **Turn in Vigilante Justice assignment & be prepared to discuss it.**

September 1 – Complete Chapter 3 - Federal Courts

September 6 - Chapter 4 - State Courts

September 8 - Complete discussion of Chapters 1- 4 in preparation for Exam 1

September 13 - **Exam 1** and discussion of reading assignment for **A Time To Kill Chapters 1-12**

September 15 - Chapter 6 – Prosecutors (**Note: we will not be covering Chapter 5**)

September 20 - Chapter 7 - Defense Attorneys

September 22 – Complete Discussion of Chapter 7 - Defense Attorneys

September 27 - Chapter 8 - Judges

September 29 - Complete discussion of Chapters 6 - 8 to prepare for Exam 2

October 4 - **Exam 2** and discussion of reading assignment for **A Time To Kill Chapters 13-29**

October 6 - Chapter 10 - Arrest to Arraignment (Note: we will not be covering Chapter 9)

October 11 – Brief discussion of the highlights of Chapter 11 -Bail and Begin discussion of Chapter 12 - Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence

October 13 – Continue discussion of Chapter 12 - Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence

October 18 - Chapter 13 - Negotiated Justice and the Plea of Guilty

October 20 - Complete discussion of Chapters 10 - 13 to prepare for Exam 3

October 25 - **Exam 3** and discussion of reading assignment for **A Time To Kill Chapters 30-44**

October 27 - Chapter 14 - Trials and Juries

November 1 - Continue discussion of Chapter 14 **Rough Drafts of A Time to Kill papers due!**  
Note: **Last day to drop a class!!**

November 3 - Chapter 15 – Sentencing Options

November 8 - Chapter 17 - Appellate Courts (**Note: we will not be covering Chapter 16**)

November 10 - Complete discussion of Chapters 14, 15 & 17 to prepare for Exam 4

November 15 – **Exam 4 - Pick-up graded rough drafts**

November 17 - Be prepared to discuss Chapter 19 - Juvenile Courts (**Note: we will not be covering Chapter 18**)

November 22 – Be prepared to complete discussion of Chapter 19 - Juvenile Courts, begin graduate student presentations on special issues in the courts.

November 24 - Thanksgiving Break, no class

November 29 - Complete graduate student presentations on special issues in the courts.

**Final Drafts of A Time to Kill papers due!**

December 1 – **Exam 5 (over Chapter 19 & special issues in the courts presentations)**

December 6 – Watch and discuss the movie A Time to Kill – **attendance mandatory!!!**

December 8 - Watch and discuss the movie A Time to Kill - **attendance mandatory!!!**

**NO FINAL EXAM!!!**