

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

CRIMINOLOGY 607 - SEMINAR: LAW AND SOCIETY
MRS. DECKER - SPRING 2003 - 2:15 pm - 5:00 pm TH

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Friedman, Lawrence M. , Law in America, A Short History (2002)

Jordan, Vernon E. with Gordon-Reed., Annette, Vernon Can Read! (2001)

Grana, Ollenburger, and Nicholas, The Social Context of Law, second edition, (2002)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the relationship between the law and the culture of the society in which it functions. As a starting point, we will review the historical development of law in the United States and then move to discuss the social context of law. Finally, the course will examine interaction between law and specific social issues in contemporary American society.

OFFICE HOURS

I will be available for consultation in my office in Holmstedt Hall Room 233, 237-2180. I will **usually** be available Tuesdays from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm, Wednesdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm and Thursdays from 12:15 pm to 2:15 pm and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and by appointment. I can also be reached by e-mail at crdecker@isugw.indstate.edu . 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. My graduate assistant is **Justin Bratton**. Justin's office is in Holmstedt Hall Room 227, 237-2162. If you are unable to contact me about a question or problem, please contact Justin.

GRADING

Grades will be based 1/3 upon class attendance and participation, 1/3 upon tests/assignments over the required readings and 1/3 upon a research paper which will consist not only of the final paper, but also of some smaller component writing assignments.

Reading and other assignments - Due to the nature of this class as a graduate seminar, to a certain extent the course will unfold at a pace and in a direction set by the class. Because of this factor, I will not be setting out the assignments for the entire course in advance. Each week, the assigned reading and/or other assignments will be given for the following week. It is incumbent upon all students in the class to obtain that information if they should miss class for any reason.

Class attendance and participation - Each student must be prepared to recite in class when called upon. You may be expected to recite in class based on assigned readings from the required text and from any other reading material which may be assigned from time to time. Any failure to respond to a request to recite in class (whether because of absence from class, failure to have read the required material, or for any other reason) will adversely effect your grade. I expect that you will be conversant with all assigned readings and will be willing to volunteer answers and your opinions in addition to responding when called upon. I also anticipate that you will have a definitional understanding of all of the words in any reading assignments. I will ask you the meaning of various words in your assigned readings - both in class and in quizzes.

A written excuse must be presented to me for consideration as to whether or not an absence will be excused. Excused absences will be granted only in extreme circumstances and in accordance with university rules.

Final course grades - There will be ten quizzes / assignments during the semester worth 10 points each for a total of 100 points. Your class participation will be worth 100 points (as assigned by me based on your attendance and the quantity and quality of your class participation) and your final paper assignment will be worth 100 points for a total of 300 points possible in the course. There will be no final exam in this class - the final paper will be in lieu of a final exam. Final grades will be based on the following grading scale:

Final Grading scale

A	270 - 300 points
B+	261 - 269 points
B	240 - 260 points
C+	231 - 239 points
C	210 - 230 points
D+	201 - 209 points
D	180 - 200 points
F	179 points and below