



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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**SEMESTER:**

**COURSE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE 3307: COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS**

**1. DESCRIPTION**

Prerequisite:

This course seeks to familiarize the students to issues related to crime internationally. It will consist of a comparative analysis of criminal justice systems from all around the world. Emphasis shall be placed on USA, UK, France, China, Kenya, Japan, and Saudi Arabia. In order to better understand the selected systems, the course shall begin by introducing the various schools/families of law, particularly common law, civil law and Islamic law traditions. In addition it will look at the various models of criminal justice systems including their strengths and weaknesses. A comparative analysis of criminal justice policies shall be carried out, including; policing and prosecution, trials and sentencing, corrections/punishment and trans-national crimes. The course will also introduce the students to the international criminal justice system, i.e., the international courts and tribunals, which complement the local criminal justice systems and deal with international crimes.

**2. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completing the course the students will be able to

1. Recognize basic governmental structures by country and how they relate to the criminal justice systems.
2. Analyze the international value of comparing systems and issues in criminal justice system
3. Examine the various stages of criminal justice process in different countries
4. Identify mechanisms of dealing with issues such as human rights and international crimes in the criminal justice system
5. Examine globalization and its effects on crime and criminal justice
6. Compare unique crime problems and solutions in different criminal justice systems.

**ATTENDANCE, PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION**

- Attendance and participation contribute to 10% of the final grade
- Class attendance is mandatory and records of attendance will be taken during each class session and the same should be signed by each student in attendance. Use a distinctive signature consistently.
- Do not print or make other marks on the attendance sheet
- Do not sign for someone else as it amounts to cheating, a serious offence which will be investigated and penalized
- If an asterix \* appears behind your name in the attendance sheet, it means a pattern of absenteeism is detected in your case and may be penalized if no improvement occurs.
- Seven (7) absences will lead to a failure of the course.

- Any late arrivals or absences should be reported to the instructor in advance.
- The course involves in-class activities and discussions and therefore is integral parts of learning.
- Prepare for the class in advance by going through assigned readings topics for adequate preparation
- Class sessions only supplement the assigned readings
- The course is collaborative, its success depends on your class attendance, participation, contribution and positive learning attitude
- You may carry your mobile phones, but put them on silent mode during class time
- Sleeping in class is not allowed
- Excuse for non-attendance is only allowed for illness, unavoidable circumstance and extra-curriculum activities approved by the Dean of the faculty or DVCAA
- Illness must be documented by a medical professional or USIU health centre
- Unavoidable circumstances should be described in writing
- The instructor reserves the right to override what the student describes as unavoidable
- Extra curriculum activities are normally notified to the faculty via email from the relevant department
- **‘Three Tardies Equals One Absence’** rule applies. Tardiness is defined as twenty minutes of any class meeting time, regardless of whether it occurs at the beginning, middle or towards end of the class. Anyone who abuses this definition by deliberately and repeatedly keeping it just under twenty minutes will be penalized in the same manner and referred for behavioral disruption.
- If a class is cancelled for any reason, the material scheduled for the cancelled class is automatically rescheduled for the next class meeting. This includes exams and other work due on the cancelled date
- If the instructor cannot make it to a class meeting, the information will be communicated on the announcement pages of Blackboard, and there will be a note on the classroom door
- **To pass the course, you must complete all assignments, tests/quizzes, mid-term and final examination.**

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- This is aimed at teaching learners to express their ideas clearly and concisely
- Completed assignments must be submitted to the course instructor **on or before the stipulated deadline**. More information on this will be given in class as the course progresses.
- Overdue assignments will be assessed five(5) points penalty per day for the first seven(7) days while any assignment overdue for a period exceeding one(1) week will earn an automatic zero(0) score.
- Where a student cannot complete an assignment by the set deadline, he/she must inform the instructor before, **NOT after the deadline.**
- Papers are graded using the REOS method. Reasoning (Logic), Evidence(sources), Observations(your own personal touch) and Substance(how significant /profound you are). The length of your papers should be 7-10 pages. No extra marks is awarded for a longer paper

### 3. EXPECTED COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Recognize basic governmental structures, by country, and how they relate to the criminal justice system.
- Develop knowledge of the historical emergence of each country's criminal justice system and possess the ability to discern critical issues that each country is confronting in its criminal justice system.
- Analyze the international value of comparing systems and issues of criminal justice systems.
- Examine the stages of the criminal process in different countries.
- Identify mechanisms to deal with issues of human rights and international crimes and criminals.
- Examine globalization and its effect on crime and criminal justice.
- Compare unique crime problems and solutions in different countries.
- Identify, define and analyze the various agencies of criminal justice in different countries.
- To evaluate the role of transitional crime plays within the parameters of a global setting.

### 4. CONTENT & CLASS SCHEDULE.

#### 1 Week One:

#### **Lecture 1,**

- Preliminaries,
- Issuance of course outline;
- Introduction to criminal justice systems-
  1. goals /objectives,
  2. key actors/agencies/stakeholders
  3. Systems' Theory

## **Readings;**

Terrill-introduction, Dammer and Albanese -introduction &lecture notes

Group Assignment

## **Lecture 2**

Legal families

- Common law
- Civil law
- Socialist and Islamic law

## **Reference;**

Terrill, introduction

Fairchild & Dammer, Chapters 1& 2

Dammer &Albanese- chapter six (6),

## 2 Week Two

## **Lecture 3**

- Key concepts in criminal justice system
- The different models of criminal justice system

Adversarial, inquisitorial and hybrid systems

- The rights of suspects
- The rights of victims

## **Readings;**

Lecture notes, Terrill introduction and Dammer and Albanese-introduction and chapter six(6), The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), The United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power

## **Lecture 4**

Balancing the rights of victims and rights of accuseds in a fair Criminal Justice System

## **Readings;**

Journal articles to be provide, Andrew Karmen (2010) *Crime Victims; An introduction to victimology*.Wadsworth.

### 3 Week Three

#### **Lecture 5**

The role of the Police in the Criminal justice system

Readings: Dammer & Albanese chapter 5

#### **Lecture 6**

The role of the Courts in the Criminal Justice System

Readings: Dammer & Albanese chapter 7&8

### 4 Week Four

#### **Lectures 7**

The role of the Correction institutions in the Criminal Justice system

Readings: Dammer & Albanese chapter 9

#### **Lecture 8**

Juvenile Justice System

Readings: Dammer & Albanese chapter 12

### 5 Week Five

#### **Lectures 9**

Transnational crimes

Readings; Lecture notes and additional reference to be provided

Dammer & Albanese chapter 11

#### **Lecture 10**

International Criminal Justice System

The International Criminal Court system

The Rome Statute

## 6 Week Six

### **Lecture 11**

Kenyan criminal justice

Readings;

The Constitution of Kenya 2010  
The French Criminal Justice System

Reference; Terrill chapter 2

### **Lecture 12**

The English Criminal Justice System

Reference; Terrill-chapter 1 and lecture notes

Dammer & Albanese chapter 4

## 7 Week Seven –

### **Lecture 13**

The American Criminal Justice System

Reference; Lecture notes and additional reading to be provided

### **Lecture 14**

Mid Term Examination :(Mid-semester evaluation)

## 8 Week Eight

### **Lectures 15**

The Japanese Criminal Justice System

Reading; Terrill- chapter 4

Dammer & Albanese chapter 4

### **Lecture 16**

Chinese Criminal Justice System

Reading; Terrill-chapter 6

Dammer & Albanese chapter 4

9 Week Nine

**Lectures 17**

French Criminal Justice System

Dammer & Albanese chapter 4

Terrill chapter 2

**Lecture 18**

**Field visit to Criminal justice agencies, courts, police, prisons**

10 Week Ten

**Lectures 19&20**

International Criminal Justice

Reference;Lecture notes and additional reference to be provided.

11 Week Eleven

**Lectures 21&22**

Islamic law

Reference;Terrill-chapter 7

Dammer & Albanese chapter 4

12 Week Twelve

**Lectures 23&24**

Topical Issues in comparative criminal justice

Reference; Lecture notes and additional ref. to be provided

13 Week Thirteen

**Lectures 25&26**

Review Course evaluation

## 14 Week Fourteen –

### Final Examination

## **5 TEACHING METHODS**

### **Lectures**

- This offers an established basis for delivering core knowledge about the subject.
- Lectures will not necessarily reflect but complement the readings provide.
- Will be held every **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1.30pm to 3pm in room C.**

### **Power point**

- May be used to deliver lecture contents

### **Class Presentations/Group Discussions**

- Encourages students to work together in reseraching,presenting and assessing their works

### **Student Participation**

- Students are encouraged to interact in class as participation is important
- It encourages the development of presentation of oral skills directed towards criminal justice discourse

### **Media Sources**

- Students are encouraged to watch certain TV programs and movies which will highlight some of the concepts taught in class e.g CSI.Criminal minds Mentalist, Criminal investigation,Jugde Judy etc

### **Office hours**

- Students are encouraged to use office hours allotted to them to consult the instructor on any individual problems or difficulties related to the course

## **6 COURSE TEXT & OTHER READINGS**

1. Terrill, Richard J. (2009) *World Criminal Justice Systems*,7<sup>th</sup> Edition, Anderson Publishing.
2. Fairchild, E and Dammer, H.R (2006) *Comparative Criminal Justice Systems* 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
3. Reichel, Phillips, L (2005) *Comparative Criminal Justice Systems; topical Approach*. Upper Saddle River, NJ; Prentice Hall
4. Reichel, Phillip, L (2005) *Comparative Criminal Justice System*.4<sup>th</sup> Edition, McGraw Hill.
5. Dammer, R, Harry and Albanese, S.Jay (2011) *Comparative Criminal Justice Systems* 4<sup>TH</sup> Edition Wadsworth



## 7 COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation	10%
Assignments	20%
Term Paper	20%
Mid-Term	20%
Final Exam	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Term Paper

- Students are expected to submit a researched term paper of between 3000 and 5300 words (excluding the cover page and bibliography.)
- The format for the paper is 1.5 line spacing with font pattern New Times Romans, size 12.
- USIU has general guidelines regarding writing research papers, get more information about this.
- Additional course specific guidelines regarding term paper will be provided
- Term paper forms 20% of overall grade
- Term paper is intended to encourage individual research into topics of concern in comparative justice,
- This assignment places particular emphasis upon the acquisition of relevant critical, analytical and evaluative skills

### Academic Integrity

- Safe Assign, a program similar to Turnitin has been introduced by USIU to help detect plagiarism on Blackboard
- Safe Assign detects originality in thoughts and deeds
- All works must therefore include correct and full referencing

- Therefore all submitted works must be accompanied by identical soft copy to check plagiarism
- Confirmed cases of plagiarism will lead to automatic zero (0)

### **Examination**

- This comprises of mid-semester and final exam
- Each exam takes one and a half hours
- Each exams will consist of four (4) to six (6) questions and students are expected to answer only two (2)
- Both mid-semester and final exam add up to 50% of the overall assessment
- Although considerable choice is availed, the questions ensure that all students acquire a substantial grasp of the course content

### **8. OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- Students must at all times show respect and courtesy to each other while maintaining decency in their manner/mode of dressing.
- Any conflict amongst students must be resolved to ensure a free and conducive learning environment

### **9. KEY INSTITUTIONAL ACADEMIC POLICIES**

Students should note the following are key policies as outlined in the University Catalogue and Students Handbook

- **Academic dishonesty** Any intentional giving or use of external assistance during an examination without the express permission of the faculty member giving the examination.
- **Fabrication:** any falsification or invention of data, citation or other authority in an academic exercise;
- **Plagiarism:** any passing off of another's ideas, words, or work as one's own;
- **Previously Submitted Work:** presenting work prepared for and submitted to another course;

#### **2. Class Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Upon being absent from **Seven** classes in a 3 unit course, the instructor will give a student an “**F**” grade for that course.

## 10. USIU GRADING

A 90 - 100

A- 87 - 89

B 80 - 83

B- 77 - 79

C+ 74 - 76

C 70 - 73

C- 67 - 69

D+ 64 - 66

D 62 - 63

D- 60 - 61

F 0 - 59 OR 7 MISSED CLASSES