

SYLLABUS

PSC 240
The Constitution and Criminal Procedure

Prof. Edward L. Fiandach
Spring, 2014

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Purpose

The purpose of this course will be to examine the Constitution and criminal procedure. In the first half of this course, we will briefly examine the origins of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the methodology of Constitutional litigation, and we will examine in some detail the role that the 4th, 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments play during the course of a criminal prosecution.

During the second half of the semester, we will turn our attention to the procedural issues addressing topics such as Motions, Discovery, Terrorism, Double Jeopardy, the Trial and the Death Penalty. To some extent, we will discuss questions of strategy and ethics that must be considered by counsel.

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book, *LaFave, Israel and King, Criminal Procedure*, published by West Group. There are multiple editions of this text and any version is acceptable. Reading section numbers should be consistent through all available revisions.

Over the years, I have received some critical comment along the lines that since the material is well covered in class, the textbook represented a needless expense. Maybe it is, but maybe it's not. Therefore, I will leave the decision as to whether to purchase a copy up to the individual student. Several copies have been placed on reserve for those who choose not to purchase the text. Please bear in mind however, that I am still firmly of the belief that to excel in this course, *you must do the reading*.

Examinations

There will be two examinations given. One will be given in class as a midterm. Please note that *under no circumstances whatsoever will a student be permitted to defer or retake any examination*.

The second examination will be the final examination.

Paper Requirement

A paper is required for this course. It will comprise the remaining 1/3 of the grade. The topic will be offered after the midterm break. The topic will be so unique so as to ensure that originality will prevail. Please note: Because of the size of this class. No papers will be accepted late or by e-mail!

Grading

My grading is very objective. Therefore, the only time I will review a grade is if there has been what appears to be *an obvious* error such as a midterm of an "A," a paper

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of an "A" and a final grade of a C. If you are displeased with your grade, please note that I rarely change grades and do not appreciate e-mails complaining about a particular grade. Please also note that if a student asks for a review of his/her grade, I will do so, *however*, that test will be re-graded *ab initio*. *This means that I will grade it as though it was not previously graded, it will not be re-graded simply to be raised. The grade, awarded upon regrading, may be higher or lower and it will be final.*

Grading of the examinations will be as follows. The midterm will count towards 1/3 of the final grade and the final will be weighted as 1/3 of the final grade.

How to Contact Me

Telephone: 585.244.8910.
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Mail: 100 A1 Ép`ÒSfRà

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LaFave, *et.al.*, pp. 103. - 118; 127 - 141.

February 3rd, "Probable Cause."

LaFave, *et al.*, 3.1 - 3.3.

February 5th, "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow, *Automobiles.*"

LaFave, *et.al.*, pp. 199 - 212.

February 10th, "Street Encounters and Roadblocks."

LaFave, *et.al.*, §§ 3.9.

February 12th, "Consent and the Power to Search,"

LaFave, *et.al.*, § 3.10.

February 17th, "Eavesdropping, and Electronic Surveillance."

LaFave, *et.al.*, §§ 4.1 - 4.6.

February 19th, No Class.

February 24th, "Compelling Truth; Interrogation and Voluntariness,"

LaFave, *et.al.*, §§ 6.1 - 6.3.

February 26th, "*Miranda* and the Privilege Against Self Incrimination,"

LaFave, *et.al.*, §§ 6.6 - 6.10; Fiandach, "*Miranda* Revisited."

March 3rd, "The Right to Counsel,"

LaFave, *et. al.*, § 6.4.

March 5th, Midterm (In class).

March 17th, Guest Lecturer, "Race and the Law," Hon. Stephen Miller.

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April 30th, Review.