Northern Marianas College
CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Fall 2009

Type of Action:

- New
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: CJ 150

Course Title: Constitutional Law for Police

Reason for initiating, modifying, or canceling: This course guide is being modified to clearly define the student learning outcomes, and to reflect changes in assessment measures and the readability level of the required text.

Proposer Date

Frank Sobolewski March 6, 2009

Department Chair Date

English and Format Reviewer Date

Dean of Academic Programs and Services Date
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Course: CJ 150 Constitutional Law for Police

1. Department: Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. Purpose:
To provide the student with a basic working knowledge of constitutional law as it applies to several vital areas of police work.

3. Description
A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

B. Contact Hours
   1. Lecture: 3 per week / 45 per semester
   2. Lab: N/A
   3. Other: N/A

C. Credits
   1. Number: 3
   2. Type: Regular degree credits

D. Catalogue Course Description
This course acquaints present and future law enforcement personnel with various aspects of criminal procedure. It also includes a study of laws that govern police work which have their basis primarily in the U.S. Constitution, the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, and the statutes passed by the local government. Prerequisite: CJ 101 or permission of the Criminal Justice Program Coordinator. English Placement Level: EN 101.

E. Degree, Certificate or Other Requirements Met by Course
This course is a required course for the A.A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice and for the Certificate of Completion in Basic Law Enforcement.

F. Course Activities and Design
Course activities include lecture, group work, field trips, video presentations, guest speakers, quizzes, and a midterm and final exam.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English / Mathematics Placement Level(s):
Prerequisite: CJ 101 or permission of the Criminal Justice Program Coordinator. English Placement Level: EN 101.
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5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed:
   Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course; the cost of the textbook;
   and instructional materials fee.

   Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

   Instructional Resources needed for this course include standard classroom
   materials and supplies such as chalk and chalkboard, TV/VCR and
   videotaped programs, library books, and other resources, as needed.

6. Method of Evaluation
   NMC's grading and attendance polices will be followed. Student grades will
   be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

   A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
   B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
   C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
   D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
   F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.
7. Course Outline
   This is a topical outline and is not necessarily the sequence in which the material will be presented.

1.0 Sources of Rights and Structure of the Court System

2.0 Overview of the Criminal Justice Process
   2.1 Procedure prior to trial
   2.2 Procedure during trial
   2.3 Procedure after trial

3.0 Arrest, “Stop and Frisk,” and Other Forms of Detention

4.0 Probable Cause
   4.1 When probable cause is required
   4.2 When probable cause is established

5.0 Searches and Seizures
   5.1 Types of search and seizure
   5.2 Items subject to search and seizure
   5.3 Vehicle stops and searches
   5.4 Plain view, open fields, abandonment, and electronic surveillance

6.0 The Exclusionary Rule
   6.1 Scope of rule
   6.2 Exceptions to rule

7.0 Admissions, Confessions, and Identification Procedures

8.0 The Trial Itself: Constitutional Safeguards and Limitations
   8.1 Right to counsel
   8.2 Right to speedy and public trial
   8.3 Right to trial by jury
   8.4 Right to confront witnesses
   8.5 “Proof beyond reasonable doubt”, and double jeopardy

9.0 Civil Liabilities of Law Enforcement Officers
   9.1 State tort law
   9.2 Section 1983 liability
   9.3 Defenses
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10.0 Constitutional Rights of Juveniles
   10.1 Arrest and investigation
   10.2 Transfer hearings
   10.3 Adjudication
   10.4 Future use of juvenile records

8. Instructional Goals
   This course will introduce students to:

   1.0 The sources of rights and our dual system of courts;

   2.0 Procedures involved in processing a criminal case from beginning to end;

   3.0 The procedural law of arrest, stop and frisk;

   4.0 The intricacies of probable cause;

   5.0 The subtle differences between legal and illegal searches and seizures;

   6.0 The application of the exclusionary rule;

   7.0 Constitutional requirements applicable to admissions, confessions, and identification procedures;

   8.0 Constitutional safeguards and limitations at trials;

   9.0 The legal liabilities of a law enforcement officer; and

   10.0 The history and philosophy of the juvenile justice system and component parts thereof.

9. Student Learning Outcomes
   Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

   1.0 Identify the three primary sources of rights and our dual system of courts;

   2.0 List the procedural steps in a criminal case from pre-trial through post trial;
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3.0 List and describe the four essential elements of arrest, and define “stop and frisk” and explain how it applies;

4.0 Explain when probable cause is required and identify when probable cause is established, using hypothetical situations;

5.0 Describe the differences between searches with and without a warrant, and list items that are subject to search and seizure;

6.0 Explain the scope of the exclusionary rule and the exceptions to it;

7.0 List the rights of suspects during interrogations;

8.0 List the rights of suspects during and after trial;

9.0 Explain the civil liabilities a law enforcement officer has under state tort law, describe the civil liabilities under Federal law (Civil Rights or Section 1983 cases), and identify some effective defenses in civil liability cases; and

10.0 List the component parts of the juvenile justice system in the CNMI, describe their functions, define “status offence,” and list several offenses applicable to the CNMI.

10. Assessment Measures
Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1.0 Class participation;

2.0 Small group discussions;

3.0 Writing assignments and exercises;

4.0 Oral and visual presentations;

5.0 Chapter quizzes;

6.0 Homework; and

7.0 Tests.