

GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: POLS 488: International Comparative Criminal Law
(qualifies for Criminal Justice credit)
Credits: 3 Credits
Instructor: Judge Terrence A. Carroll, ret. & Judge George T. Mattson, ret.



Study Abroad, 502 E. Boone Ave, Spokane, WA 99258-0085 • (800) 440-5391 • www.gonzaga.edu/studyabroad • studyabroad@gonzaga.edu

Spring Semester 2011

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will present a comparative overview of the fundamental and procedural rights of defendants (adult and juvenile) in criminal cases – with special emphasis on the courts of the United States and Italy with reference to the Amanda Knox case in Perugia, Italy. Further, the course will provide an overview of the sharia, continental, common law and authoritarian legal systems. In addition, we will review the procedures of the International Criminal Court at The Hague.

The basics of comparative law methodology will be taught. It is strongly suggested that students have previous course work in the basics of American law before taking this course. The course is ideal for students interested in a law enforcement or legal career. The professors (who will each teach one-half of the course) are retired judges and have a combined trial court experience of 45 years with extensive involvement in judicial administration, civic activities, and rule of law programs.

COURSE OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the course, it is expected that the students will:

- (1) Have gained a basic understanding of comparative law principles.
- (2) Be able to identify and explain the differences and similarities between their own and the criminal justice systems of other countries.
- (3) Develop a better appreciation of other countries and their legal cultures.
- (4) Be able to articulate a basis for critical analysis of the criminal justice system in their native country.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Both lecture and seminar approaches will be utilized. In addition to mastering selected portions of the textbook, students will be assigned in groups to report on pre-approved subjects for discussion by the class. A ten-page, well-edited paper will be required as well. Guest speakers will present. There will likely be the opportunity for visits to local judicial institutions. Student participation in all phases of the course is required. Gonzaga in Florence absence policies will be observed.

COURSE GRADE

The course is graded on a 400 point scale:

- * 100 points – mid-term exam
- * 100 points - final exam
- * 100 points – paper on approved subject
- * 100 points – participation in class and attendance

TEXT

Reichel, Phillip, Comparative Criminal Justice Systems, 4th edition, Prentice Hall, 2008
(enough copies of textbook are available at the GIF Library)

ETHICS

Students are expected to follow the academic ethics of Gonzaga University. This includes honesty in taking exams and submitting written reports. Further, students are expected to show respect and courtesy toward their fellow students, professors, and guests.