

Syllabus

CRIMINAL LAW

Instructor: Cynthia Armijo
Telephone: (505) 277-0377
hours:

Pre-requisite:
Credit

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Course Description:

This course is designed to provide the instruction in the study of crimes, including major crimes, crimes against person, crimes against property, conspiracy, elements of proof, and the processes and procedures involved.

Instructional Materials:

Schmallegger, F. Hall, D. (2016) *Criminal Law Today*. 6th ed. Prentice Hall.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the history of laws in the American Criminal Justice system as it relates from Common Law in England
- List the origins of criminal law
- Define mens rea and actus reus
- Identify the mens rea and actus reus of various crimes and case studies
- Be able to identify the specific elements of various types of crimes

Instructional Methods:

A variety of teaching strategies may be utilized in this course, including but not limited to: lecture, discussion, written classroom exercises, group and/or individual projects, videos, quizzes, exams, reading assignments, writing assignments, interactive exercises and internet research.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to complete all examinations and assignments without using unapproved resources or assistance. Academic dishonesty includes such activities as unapproved collaboration in completing examinations and other assignments, use of resources prohibited by the instructor, and plagiarism (representing another's work as one's own). In presenting results of research, a student must accurately represent and attribute ideas or statements belonging to others and must accurately document the resources in which those ideas or statements are found, regardless of how the student may present them. Thus, whether the student quotes, paraphrases, or summarizes, anything other than common

knowledge or the student's own invention must be carefully attributed and documented. Any violation of this requirement is plagiarism, a serious academic offense.

Instructor's Policies

Expectations

Late/Make-Up Work

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the intentional or accidental misrepresentation of someone else's work/research as your own. It is important to cite all outside information using proper APA format in order to avoid plagiarism. Please see the instructor if you have questions about the proper method of citation.

Any papers or projects submitted that are found to be plagiarized will result in zeroes and will not be permitted to be rewritten.

Method for evaluating Students:

Weekly discussion questions: 150

Weekly chapter tests: 150

Case Selection: 50

Rough Draft: 50

Assignment 100

600 points possible

Course Outline:

WEEKLY OUTLINE

**** WEEK ONE -****

Topics: _____

Chapter 1: The Nature and History of Criminal Law

Historical and Philosophical Perspectives

Common Law

The Purpose of Criminal Law

Sources of Criminal Law
The Modern U.S. Legal System
The Rule of Law

Homework:

****WEEK TWO –****

Topics: **Chapter 2: Criminal Liability and the Essence of Crime**
 The Criminal Act
 State of Mind
 Strict Liability
 Negligence
 Concurrence

Homework:

****WEEK THREE –****

Topics: **Chapter 3: Expanding the Concept of Crime**
 Corpus Delicti
 Causation

Homework:

****WEEK FOUR –****

Topics: **Test 1--Chapter 1-3**
 Chapter 4: Expanding Criminal Liability: Inchoate Offenses
 Criminal Attempt
 Criminal Conspiracy
 Criminal Solicitation
 Parties to Crime

Homework:

****WEEK FIVE –****

Topics: **Chapter 5: Justifications and Defenses**
 Types of Defenses
 The Process of Affirmative Defenses
 Justification as a Defense
 Gun Rights

Homework:

****WEEK SIX –****

Topics:

Chapter 6: Defenses: Excuses and Insanity

The Nature of Excuses
Forms of Excuses
Mental Incompetency
The Insanity Defense
Diminished Capacity
Civil Commitment

Midterm Exam: Chapters 1-6

Homework:

**** WEEK SEVEN –****

Topics:

Test 2--Chapters 4-6

Chapter 7: Crimes Against Persons: Homicide

Criminal Homicide
Murder
Manslaughter
Negligent Homicide
Suicide

Homework:

****WEEK EIGHT –****

Topics:

Other

Chapter 8: Crimes Against Persons: Assault, Sex Offenses and Crimes

Assault, Battery, and Mayhem
Sex Offenses
Kidnapping and False Imprisonment

Homework:

**** WEEK NINE –****

Topics:

Chapter 9: Property and Computer Crimes

Theft Crimes
Consolidation of Theft Crimes
Grading of Theft Crimes
Burglary
Arson

Computer and High Technology Crimes
Types of Computer Crimes

Homework:

****WEEK TEN –****

Topics:

of

Test 3--Chapters 7-9

**Chapter 10: Offenses Against Public Order and the Administration
Justice**

Crimes against Public Order

Crimes against the Administration of Government

Environmental Crimes

Homework:

****WEEK ELEVEN – ****

Topics:

Chapter 11: Offenses against Public Morality

Crimes against Public Decency and Morality

Prostitution

Pornography, Obscenity, and Lewdness

Other Consensual Sex Offences

Gambling and Gaming

Controlled Substances

Homework:

****WEEK TWELVE –****

Topics:

Chapter 12: Terrorism and Human Trafficking

Terrorism, Treason, and Sedition

Terrorism Laws

Constitutional Issues

Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons

Federal Immigration and Trafficking Legislation

Homework:

****WEEK THIRTEEN –****

Topics:

Chapter 13: Victims and the Law

Who is a Victim?

A Short History of the Victim

Victims' Rights Legislation
Victim Statistics

Chapter 14: Punishment and Sentencing

Punishment Rationales

Retribution

Deterrence

Rehabilitation

Restoration

Incapacitation

Constitutional Limitations

Homework:

****WEEK FOURTEEN –****

Final Exam