Syllabus

CRIMINAL LAW

Instructor: Cynthia Armijo
Pre-requisite: 
Telephone: (505) 277-0377 
Credit 
hours: 
Email: cyarmijo@unm.edu

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:

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: 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:**
Test 3--Chapters 7-9
Chapter 10: Offenses Against Public Order and the Administration of 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
Chapter 14: Punishment and Sentencing
Punishment Rationales
  Retribution
  Deterrence
  Rehabilitation
  Restoration
  Incapacitation
Constitutional Limitations

Homework:

**WEEK FOURTEEN –**

Final Exam