

CJC 131 CRIMINAL LAW

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090, or satisfactory score on placement test

This course covers the history, evolution, principles, and contemporary applications of criminal law. Topics include sources of substantive law, classification of crimes, parties to crime, elements of crimes, matters of criminal responsibility, and other related topics. Upon completion, students should be able to discuss the sources of law and identify, interpret, and apply the appropriate statutes and elements. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- a. Distinguish between statutory law, case law, common law, and constitutional law.
- b. Explain the concepts of substantive law.
- c. Describe the six elements of a criminal act.
- d. Recognize the bars to prosecution.
- e. Recognize the defense of justification.
- f. Interpret the concept of diminished capacity.
- g. Identify the elements for selected crimes against the person.
- h. Identify the elements for selected crimes against property.
- i. Identify the elements for selected crimes of fraud.
- j. Identify the elements for selected crimes of public disorder.
- k. Identify the elements for selected crimes of sexual morality.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Origins of criminal law
 - A. Common law
 - B. Case law
 - C. Statutory law
 - D. Constitutional law

- II. Substantive law
 - A. Risk creating conduct
 - B. Strict liability without fault
 - C. Specific intent
 - D. General intent
 - E. Mens rea

- III. Basic premises of criminal law
 - A. Guilty act
 - B. Guilty state of mind
 - C. Concurrence
 - D. Harm
 - E. Causation
 - F. Punishment

- IV. Bars to prosecution
 - A. Double jeopardy conventions
 - B. Jurisdictional limitations
 - C. Statute of limitations
 - D. Immunity

- V. Defenses of justification
 - A. Self-defense for murder
 - B. Self-defense for assault
 - C. Defense of others
 - D. Defense of property
 - E. Acts under public authority

- VI. Defenses of diminished responsibility
 - A. Consent
 - B. Lack of criminal intent or criminal negligence
 - C. Immaturity
 - D. Diminished mental capacity
 - E. Acts under duress
 - F. Entrapment
 - G. Voluntary intoxication

- VII. Parties to crimes
 - A. Principals
 - B. Accomplice aiding and abetting
 - C. Accessory after the fact

- VIII. General crimes
 - A. Attempts
 - B. Solicitation to commit a crime
 - C. Criminal conspiracy
 - D. Compounding a felony

- IX. Crimes against the person
 - A. Homicide
 - B. Assaults
 - C. Sexual assaults
 - D. Robbery
 - E. Extortion
 - F. Kidnapping

- X. Crimes against property
 - A. Burglary
 - B. Breaking or entering
 - C. Arson
 - D. Trespass
 - E. Damage to property
 - F. Larceny
 - G. Embezzlement
 - H. Possession of stolen goods
 - I. Willful concealment

- XI. Fraud, forgery and related offenses
 - A. Worthless checks
 - B. Fraud
 - C. Credit card fraud
 - D. Forgery
 - E. Computer crimes

- XII. Public disorder crimes
 - A. Drunken and disruptive behavior
 - B. Disorderly conduct

- XIII. Crimes against administration of justice
 - A. Perjury
 - B. Subordination of perjury
 - C. Bribery

- XIV. Crimes against sexual morality
 - A. Crimes against nature
 - B. Incest
 - C. Indecent exposure
 - D. Prostitution

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

To be announced by instructor.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.