

CJC –131 Criminal Law

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites.

Corequisites: None

Course description. 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/elements.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completing requirements for this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the primary sources of criminal law in the United States.
2. Describe the limitations of criminal law, including the limits imposed by state and federal statutes.
3. Describe the three levels of the American Court system.
4. Evaluate the concept of criminal liability.
5. Apply the elements of crimes and defenses in the context of specific factual situations.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. An Overview of the Nature and History of Criminal Law
 - A. What is Criminal Law?
 - B. Historical Perspectives of Criminal Law
 - C. Common Law
 - D. Sources of Criminal Law
 - E. Types of Crime
 - F. The U.S. Legal System
- II. Criminal Liability
 - A. The Criminal Act
 - B. The Elements of Crime
 - C. State of Mind
 - D. Strict Liability
- III. Inchoate Offenses and Parties to Crimes
 - A. Criminal Attempt
 - B. Criminal Conspiracy
 - C. Criminal Solicitation
 - D. Parties to Crime

- IV. Justification Defenses
 - A. Types of Defenses
 - B. The Process of Affirmative Defenses
 - C. Psychological Theories
 - D. Sociological Theories

- V. Excuses and Insanity Defenses
 - A. The Nature of Excuses
 - B. Forms of Excuses
 - C. Mental Incompetency
 - D. Insanity Defense
 - i. What is Insanity
 - ii. History of Insanity
 - E. Civil Commitment

- VI. Crimes Against Persons:
 - A. Homicide
 - B. Assault
 - C. Sex Offenses
 - D. Other Crimes

- VII. Property Crimes
- VIII. Crimes Against Public Order and the Administration of Justice
- IX. Punishment and Sentencing
- X. Scenario based application

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL:

The instructor will determine the textbook and other instructional material.