COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090 or DRE 098; or satisfactory score on placement test
Corequisites: None

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.