

Fundamentals of Criminal Law (CJSA 1327)

Credit: 3 semester credit hours

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None



Course Description

A study of the nature of criminal law; philosophical and historical development; major definitions and concepts; classification of crime; elements of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations; criminal responsibility.

Required Textbook and Materials

1. *Contemporary Criminal Law, 2ed*, by Matthew Lippman, Sage, ISBN 978-1-4129-8129-3n 2010.
2. A package of #882 Scantrons and #2 pencils.

Course Objectives (with applicable SCANS skills after each)

1. The student will be able to explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law.
2. The student will be able to describe definitions and concepts of criminal law and the classifications of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations.
3. The student will be able to list the elements of crimes using the Texas statutes as an illustration; and discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes.

Course Outline

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| A. Welcome to College: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction of faculty and students2. Meet your instructor3. What am I doing here? | 3. Freedom of Speech
4. Lawrence v. Texas |
| B. LIT <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Policies2. Academic calendar3. Physical facilities | E. Punishment and Sentencing <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Purposes of Punishment2. Sentencing3. Sentencing Guidelines4. Victims' Rights |
| C. The Nature, Purpose, and Function of Criminal Law <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Criminal and Civil Law2. Categories of Crime3. Sources of Criminal Law | F. Actus Reus <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Criminal Acts2. State v. Fields3. Status Offenders4. Omissions5. Possession |
| D. Constitutional Limitations <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Rule of Legality2. Equal Protection | G. Mens Rea, Concurrence, Causation <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Evidentiary Burden2. Purposely3. Knowingly4. Recklessly |

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CJSA 1327
Course Syllabi

- 5. Strict Liability
- 6. Causation
- H. Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability
 - 1. Accomplice Liability
 - 2. Accessory After the Fact
 - 3. Vicarious Liability
- I. Attempt, Conspiracy, and Solicitation
 - 1. Attempt
 - 2. Smallwood v. State
 - 3. Bolton v. State
 - 4. Conspiracy
 - 5. Solicitation
- J. Justifications
 - 1. Mitigating Circumstances
 - 2. Self Defense
 - 3. Defense of Others
 - 4. Defense of Home
 - 5. Execution of Public Duties
 - 6. Resisting Unlawful Arrests
 - 7. Necessity
- K. Excuses
 - 1. The Insanity Defense
 - 2. Diminished Capacity
 - 3. Intoxication
 - 4. Duress
 - 5. Mistake of Law

 - 6. Entrapment
 - 7. New Defences
- L. Criminal Sexual Conduct, Assault and Battery, Kidnapping, and False Imprisonment
 - 1. The Common Law of Rape
 - 2. In the Interest of M.S.T.
 - 3. Assault and Battery
- M. Homicide
 - 1. Types of Criminal Homicide
 - 2. The Beginning of Human Life
 - 3. The End of Human Life
 - 4. Murder
 - 5. Manslaughter
- N. Burglary, Trespass, Arson, and Mischief
 - 1. Breaking and Entry
 - 2. Trespass
 - 3. Arson
 - 4. Criminal Mischief
- O. Crimes Against Property
 - 1. Larceny
 - 2. Embezzlement
 - 3. Theft
 - 4. Identity Theft
 - 5. Computer Crime
 - 6. Receiving Stolen Property
 - 7. Forgery
 - 8. Robbery
 - 9. Carjacking
 - 10. Extortion
- P. White-Collar Crime
 - 1. Environmental Crimes
 - 2. Occupational Health and Safety
 - 3. Securities Fraud
 - 4. Mail and Wire Fraud
 - 5. The Travel Act
 - 6. Money Laundering
- Q. Crimes Against Public Order and Morality
 - 1. Disorderly Conduct
 - 2. Riot
 - 3. Public Indecencies
 - 4. Obscenity
 - 5. Cruelty to Animals
- R. Crimes Against the State
 - 1. Treason

 - 2. Sedition
 - 3. Sabotage
 - 4. Espionage
 - 5. Terrorism

Grade Scale

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

1. 3-4 Unit Tests	75%
2. Comprehensive Final Exam	10%
3. Course Assignments	5%
4. Course Project	10%

Course Requirements

1. Monday - Class Attendance
2. Written report.
3. Preparation and presentation of a class assigned project
4. Satisfactory attendance
5. Completion of unit tests
6. Complete the Final Exam on designated date

Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Beepers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. No late assignments will be accepted.
5. Tests. Students that miss a test are not allowed to make up the test. Students that miss a test will receive the score of the next scheduled exam. Students who miss two major exams cannot pass the course
6. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.

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7. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building.

Course Schedule

Week of	Topic	Reference
Week 1	Course introduction and policies	
Week 2	Chapter 1 The Nature, Purpose, & Function of Criminal Law.	pp. 1-15
Week 3	Chapter 2.:Constitutional Limitation	pp. 16 -52
Week 4	Chapter 3 Punishment & Sentencing Exam I Chapters 1, 2, 3	pp. 53 - 84
Week 5	Chapter 4 Actus Reus	pp. 85- 113
Week 6	Chapter 5 Mens Rea, Concurrence, Causation	pp. 114-146
Week 7	Chapter 6 Parties to Crime Exam 2 Chapters 4, 5, 6	pp.147-178
Week 8	Chapter 7 Attempt, Conspiracy & Solicitation	pp.179-216
Week 9	Chapter 8 Justifications	pp. 217-270
Week 10	Chapter 9 Excuses Exam 3 Chapters 7, 8, 9	pp. 271-324
Week 11	Chapter 10 Criminal Sexual Conduct, Assault & Battery, Kidnapping, & False Imprisonment	pp.325- 368
Week 12	Chapter 11 Homicide Chapter 12 Burglary, Trespass, Arson, & Mischief Exam 4 Chapters 10, 11, 12	pp. 367- 419 pp. 420-446
Week 13	Chapter 13 Crimes Against Property Thanksgiving No Classes	pp. 447-494
Week 14	Chapter 14 White-Collar Crime	pp 495-523
Week 15	Chapter 15 Crimes Against Public Order & Morality	pp. 524-564

Final Project 12/07

Week 16 Course Review, Final Exam Review
 Final Exam

Contact Information: Varies by Instructor