Fundamentals of Criminal Law (CRIJ 1310) Online

Credit: 3 semester credit hours

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Completed the Online Orientation and answered 7+ questions correctly on the Online Learner Self-Assessment: http://www.lit.edu/depts/DistanceEd/OnlineOrientation/OOStep2.aspx

Course Description
Study of criminal law, its philosophical and historical development, major definitions and concepts, classifications and elements of crime, penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations, and criminal responsibility. This course is time-bound, structured and completed online.

Required Textbook and Materials
2. Computer with internet access.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:
1. Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law.
2. Describe definitions and concepts of criminal law and the classifications of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations.
3. List the elements of crimes using the Texas statutes as an illustration; and discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes.
4. Discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes.
5. Select answers to computer-based tests that are akin to current Criminal Justice certification exams. (additional objective not in ACGM)

Course Outline:
A. Welcome to College:
   1. Introduction of faculty and students
   2. Meet your instructor
   3. What am I doing here?
B. LIT
   1. Policies
   2. Academic calendar
   3. Physical facilities
C. Introduction to Criminal Law
   1. Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure
   2. The Difference between Civil and Criminal Law
   3. Classification of Crimes
   4. The Purpose of Punishment
   5. Sources of Law
D. The Legal System in the United States
   1. Federalism
   2. The Branches of Government
   3. The Court System
   4. The Burden of Proof
E. Constitutional Protections
   1. Applicability of the Constitution
   2. The Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses
   3. Freedom of Speech
   4. The Right to Privacy
   5. The Right to Bear Arms
   6. Excessive Punishment
F. The Elements of a Crime
   1. Criminal Elements

Approved 8/13
2. Criminal Intent
3. Causation and Harm

G. Criminal Defenses, Part I
1. Criminal Defenses
2. Self Defense
3. Other Use-of Force Defense
4. Defenses based on Choice
5. Consent

H. Criminal Defenses, Part 2
1. The Insanity Defense
2. Infancy, Intoxication, Ignorance, and Mistake
3. Entrapment

I. Parties to Crimes
1. Parties to Crimes
2. Vicarious Liability
3. Accessory

J. Inchoate Offenses
1. Attempt
2. Conspiracy
3. Solicitation

K. Criminal Homicide
1. Homicide
2. Murder

L. Sex Offenses and Crimes Involving Force, Fear, Fear, and Physical Restraint
1. Sex Offenses
2. Assault and Battery
3. Domestic Violence and Stalking
4. Kidnapping and False Imprisonment

M. Crimes against Property
1. Nonviolent Theft Crimes
2. Extortion, Robbery, and Receiving Stolen Property
3. Crimes that Invade or Damage Property

N. Crimes against the Public
1. Quality of Life Crimes
2. Crimes Targeting Group Conduct
3. Vice Crimes

O. Crimes Against the Government
1. Crimes Involving National Security
2. Crimes Involving Terrorism
3. Perjury, Bribery, and Obstruction of Justice

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. Discussions 10%
2. Research assignment 20%
3. Course Project 20%
4. Final Exam 20%
5. Assignments 20%
6. Module 1 Test 10%

Course Requirements
1. Students can complete this course without physically visiting the institution offering the course.
2. The student will post discussions as instructed along with any other assignments instructed to complete.
3. Students will search for current ethical issues
4. The student will post discussions as instructed along with any other assignments instructed to complete.
5. The student will complete online quizzes and unit exams by the due dates shown on the course calendar.
6. The student will write a paper discussing topics covered throughout the semester.

Course Policies
1. Students must provide their own textbooks, writing instruments, and other necessary supplies for classes.
2. Students must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.
3. Students must respect one another and all faculty.
4. Internet Usage – Students are expected to use proper net etiquette while participating in course emails, assignment submissions, and online discussions.
5. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
6. All exams will be taken on the scheduled dates. There will be NO MAKE UP EXAMS.
7. All assignments are due when stated. Late assignments are not accepted.
8. Additional course policies are outlined in “Classroom Policies” provided at the beginning of the semester.
9. Students are expected to follow the Lamar Institute of Technology Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy
10. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. If you stop logging-in to the course and do not complete the course drop process, then you will receive an “F” grade for the course.
11. The instructor will respond to e-mail and voice mail communication within 48 hours Monday through Friday. Assignment grades will be published within 2 weeks of the assignment due date.

Technical Requirements
The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at: 
http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=25368512
A functional internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

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 
http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/default.aspx
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