JEFFERSON COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

CRJ112

CRIMINAL LAW

3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
Mark A. Byington

Revised by: Mark A. Byington
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Dr. Sandy Frey, Chair, Social Science Division
Ms. Shirley Davenport, Dean, Arts & Science Education
CRJ112 Criminal Law

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

A. Prerequisite: reading proficiency

B. 3 semester hour credit

C. Criminal Law studies criminal, common, and statutory law within the context of enforcement and the administration of justice, including the hierarchy and function of the courts, other organizations, and officials. (F, Su)

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES/CORRESPONDING ASSESSMENT MEASURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify and describe the elements of a crime</td>
<td>Scenario research</td>
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<td>Written test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify and discuss the procedural, constitutional, and statutory procedures in the current criminal justice process</td>
<td>Class discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify and define the process of determining the crime committed and the steps needed to prosecute</td>
<td>Class discussion</td>
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<td>Scenario research</td>
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III. OUTLINE OF TOPICS

A. The nature and limits of criminal law
   1. Government limits on ability to define crimes
   2. Concept of constitutional democracy
   3. Limits on criminal punishments
   4. Purposes of criminal punishment
   5. How crimes are classified and graded
   6. Case citations and court opinions

B. Constitutional limits on criminal law
   1. Constitution limits on the scope of the criminal law
   2. Concept of the rule of law
   3. Examples of *ex post facto* laws
   4. Void-for-vagueness doctrine
   5. Concept of equal protection of the law
   6. Freedom of speech and press
   7. Constitutional right to privacy

C. The general principles of criminal liability: *actus reus*
   1. Basic principles of criminal liability
   2. Requirements of an *actus reus*
   3. Acts must be voluntary to be criminal
   4. Possession is an act
5. Two types of possession
6. The difference between knowing and mere possession

D. The general principles of criminal liability – mens rea, concurrence, and causation
    1. Concept of mens rea or the mental element of crime
    2. Major types of mens rea
    3. Proving mens rea
    4. Strict liability crime
    5. Pros and cons of strict liability crimes

E. Defenses to criminal liability: justifications
    1. Three basic kinds of defenses
    2. Concept of justification
    3. Distinguishing between the burden of proof and the burden of persuasion
    4. Basic rules of use of force and deadly force
    5. Deadly force when retreat is or is not required

F. Defenses to criminal liability: excuses
    1. Basic idea of excuses
    2. The insanity defense
    3. Basic types of insanity defense
    4. Defense of diminished capacity
    5. Current approach to age as a defense
    6. Duress defense
    7. Voluntary and involuntary intoxication as defenses
    8. Two main versions of the entrapment defense
    9. Concept of syndromes and when these can be defenses

G. Parties to crime and vicarious liability
    1. Doctrines of complicity or parties to crime
    2. Common law approach to complicity
    3. Current distinction between accomplices and accessories
    4. Crime of conspiracy

H. Inchoate crimes: attempt, conspiracy, and solicitation
    1. Concept of an inchoate crime
    2. Actus reus of attempt
    3. Mens rea of attempt
    4. Impossibility defenses to attempt
    5. Basic idea of conspiracy
    6. The actus reus of conspiracy
    7. The mens rea of conspiracy
    8. Approaches to conspiracy
    9. The mens rea element of solicitation
    10. The actus reus of solicitation
I. Crimes against persons I
   1. Historical development of the Law of Homicide
   2. *Mens rea* and *actus reus* various types and degrees of homicide
   3. Concept of malice aforethought
   4. Concept of implied malice
   5. Concept of felony murder
   6. First- and second-degree murder
   7. Function of mitigating and aggravating circumstances
   8. Voluntary and involuntary manslaughter
   9. Misdemeanor-Manslaughter and Unlawful Act-Manslaughter doctrines

J. Crimes against persons II: criminal sexual conduct, bodily injury, and personal restraint
   1. Traditional and common law approaches to rape
   2. Modern changes in the law of rape and rape prosecutions
   3. Crime of statutory rape and the mistake of age defense
   4. Traditional difference between assault and battery
   5. Crime of kidnapping
   6. Crime of false imprisonment

K. Crimes against property
   1. History of theft and related offenses
   2. Various types of modern theft and related offenses
   3. Offense of receiving stolen property
   4. Elements of forgery and uttering
   5. Crime of robbery
   6. Offense of extortion
   7. History of the crime of burglary
   8. Elements of burglary
   9. Elements of criminal trespass
   10. Crimes of arson and criminal mischief

L. Crimes against public order and morals
   1. Riot and rout
   2. Model Penal Code definition of disorderly conduct
   3. Crimes of loitering and vagrancy
   4. Broken Windows theory
   5. Void for Vagueness doctrine
   6. First Amendment issues in quality of life crimes
   7. First Amendment Forum theory and the types of forums
   8. Basic law and procedure for abating public nuisances
   9. Debate over the proper relationship between law and morality
   10. Concept of victimless crimes
   11. Prostitution and related crimes
M. Crimes against the state
   1. Article III, Sec. 3, of the Constitution on treason
   2. Historical background of the crime of treason
   3. Elements of sedition
   4. Crime of sabotage
   5. Offense of espionage
   6. History and major provisions of the USA Patriot Act
      History and major provisions of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death
      Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA)
   7. Constitutional issues involved in recent legislation

III. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION
   A. Lecture
   B. Scenario research
   C. Class discussion

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


   Enforcement Training Institute School of Law, 2012.

VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

   None

IV. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

   Current Library holdings

VIII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

   A. Class participation/discussion: 10%
   B. Scenarios: 30%

   There will be scenario assignments (minimum of four scenarios on each assignment) given throughout the semester. Students will need to read carefully each scenario and determine the crime that has been committed and what the charge should be.
C. Chapter tests: 40%

D. Final: 20%

IX. ADA AA STATEMENT

Any student requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library; phone 636-481-3169).

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook (see College website, http://www.jeffco.edu).

XI. ATTENDANCE STATEMENT

Students earn their financial aid by regularly attending and actively participating in their coursework. If a student does not actively participate, he/she may have to return financial aid funds. Consult the College Catalog or a Student Financial Services representative for more details.