JEFFERSON COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

CRJ112

CRIMINAL LAW

3 Credit Hours

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Arts & Science Education
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
CRJ112 Criminal Law

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

A. Prerequisite: None

B. 3 semester hours 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, S, OL)

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT MEASURES

| Students will identify and describe the elements of a crime. | Scenario research Written Test |
| Students will identify and discuss the procedural, constitutional, and statutory procedures in the current Criminal Justice process. | Class Discussion Written Test |
| Students will identify and define the process of determining the crime committed and the steps needed to prosecute. | Class Discussion Scenario research Written Test |

III. COURSE OUTLINE WITH UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. Nature and Limits of Criminal Law

After studying this unit, students will be able to:
1. Discuss the limits on government ability to define crimes.
2. Explain the concept of constitutional democracy.
3. Identify the limits on criminal punishments.
4. Discuss the purposes of criminal punishment.
5. Explain how crimes are classified and graded.
6. Discuss case citations and court opinions.
7. Find and identify a case in a library.

B. Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law

After studying this unit, students will be able to:
1. Explain how the constitution limits the scope of the criminal law.
2. Discuss with the concept of the rule of law.
3. Define and give examples of ex post facto laws.
4. Identify the void-for-vagueness doctrine.
5. Identify the concept of equal protection of the law.
6. Discuss freedom of speech and press.
7. Explain the constitutional right to privacy.
C. The General Principles of Criminal Liability: Actus Reus
After studying this unit, students will be able to:
1. Identify the basic principles of criminal liability.
2. Discuss the requirement of an *actus reus*.
3. Discuss why acts must be voluntary to be criminal.
4. Explain how possession is an act.
5. Identify the two types of possession.
6. Identify the difference between knowing and mere possession.

D. The General Principles of Criminal Liability-Mens Rea, Concurrence, and Causation
After studying this unit, students will be able to:
1. Define the concept of *mens rea*, or the mental element of crime.
2. Identify the major types of *mens rea*.
3. Discuss how *mens rea* can be proven.
4. Define what is meant by a strict liability crime.
5. Discuss the arguments for and against strict liability crimes.

E. Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications
After studying this unit, students will be able to:
1. Identify the three basic kinds of defenses.
2. Explain the concept of justification.
3. Distinguish between the burden of proof and the burden of persuasion.
4. Identify the basic rules of use of force and deadly force.
5. Explain when retreat is or is not required before using deadly force.

F. Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuses
After studying this unit, students will be able to:
1. Discuss the basic idea of excuses.
2. Identify the insanity defense.
3. Discuss the basic types of insanity defense.
4. Identify the defense of diminished capacity.
5. Discuss the current approach to age as a defense.
6. Identify the duress defense.
7. Distinguish between voluntary and involuntary intoxication as defenses.
8. Identify the two main versions of the entrapment defense.
9. Discuss the concept of syndromes and when these can be defenses.

G. Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability
After studying this unit, students will be able to:
1. Identify the doctrines of complicity or parties to crime.
2. Discuss the common law approach to complicity.
3. Identify the current distinction between accomplices and accessories.
4. Identify the crime of conspiracy.
   After studying this unit, students will be able to:
   1. Identify the concept of an inchoate crime.
   2. Identify the *actus reus* of attempt.
   3. Identify the *mens rea* of attempt.
   4. Discuss the impossibility defenses to attempt.
   5. Explain the basic idea of conspiracy.
   6. Identify the *actus reus* of conspiracy.
   7. Identify the *mens rea* of conspiracy.
   8. Explain the various approaches to conspiracy.
   9. Identify the *mens rea* element of solicitation.
  10. Identify the *actus reus* of solicitation.

I. Crimes Against Persons I:
   After studying this unit, students will be able to:
   1. Discuss the historical development of the law of homicide.
   2. Distinguish between the *mens rea* and *actus reus* of various types and degrees of homicide.
   3. Identify the concept of malice aforethought.
   4. Identify the concept of implied malice.
   5. Identify the concept of felony murder.
   6. Differentiate between first and second degree murder.
   7. Distinguish between the function of mitigating and aggravating circumstances.
   8. Differentiate between voluntary and involuntary manslaughter.
   9. Identify the elements of voluntary manslaughter.
  10. Identify the elements of involuntary manslaughter.
  11. Differentiate between misdemeanor-manslaughter and unlawful act-manslaughter doctrines.

J. Crimes Against Persons II: Criminal Sexual Conduct, Bodily Injury, and Personal Restraint
   After studying this unit, students will be able to:
   1. Discuss the traditional and common law approaches to rape.
   2. Explain the modern changes in the law of rape and rape prosecutions.
   3. Identify the basics of the crime of statutory rape and the mistake of age defense.
   4. Explain the traditional difference between assault and battery.
   5. Identify the crime of kidnapping.
   6. Identify the crime of false imprisonment.
   7. Differentiate between kidnapping and false imprisonment.

K. Crimes Against Property
   After studying this unit, students will be able to:
   1. Discuss the history of theft and related offenses.
   2. Identify the various types of modern theft and related offenses.
   3. Identify the offense of receiving stolen property.
4. Identify the elements of forgery and uttering.
5. Identify the crime of robbery.
6. Identify the definition of the offense of extortion.
7. Distinguish between robbery and extortion.
8. Discuss the history of the crime of burglary.
9. Identify the elements of burglary.
10. Identify the elements of criminal trespass.
11. Distinguish between the crimes of arson and criminal mischief.

L. Crimes Against Public Order and Morals
After studying this unit, students will be able to:
1. Explain the difference between riot and rout.
2. Identify the Model Penal Code definition of disorderly conduct.
3. Identify the crimes of loitering and vagrancy.
4. Discuss the broken windows theory.
5. Discuss the void for vagueness doctrine.
6. Identify the First Amendment issues in quality of life crimes.
7. Identify the First Amendment forum theory and the types of forums.
8. Discuss the basic law and procedure for abating public nuisances.
9. Examine the debate over the proper relationship between law and morality.
10. Identify the concept of victimless crimes.
11. Identify prostitution and related crimes.

M. Crimes Against the State
After studying this unit, students will be able to:
1. Identify Art. III, Sec. 3 of the Constitution on treason.
2. Discuss the historical background of the crime of treason.
3. Identify the elements of sedition.
4. Identify the crime of sabotage.
5. Identify the offense of espionage.
6. Discuss the history and major provisions of the U.S.A. Patriot Act.
7. Discuss the history and major provisions of the AEDPA.
8. Discuss some of the constitutional issues involved in recent legislation.

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Lecture

B. Scenario research

C. Class Discussion
V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS (Student)

Textbook

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

Current Library holdings

VIII. METHOD OF EVALUATION (Student)

A. Class participation/discussion: 10 %

B. Scenarios: 30 %

There will be scenarios (13 total / 4 scenarios on each assignment) given throughout the semester, you 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 STATEMENT

Any student requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library; phone 636-797-3000, ext. 169).

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook (see College Website).