

CJ123

Criminal Law

[Onsite]

Course Description:

This course introduces the student to criminal law, which involves the imposition of penalties for engaging in criminal conduct. The course also explores the distinction between criminal law, which typically is enforced by the government, and civil law, which may be enforced by private parties.

Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s):

Prerequisites: GE175 American Government or equivalent, GE217 Composition II, An introductory level Criminal Justice or Paralegal Studies course

Credit hours: 4

Contact hours: 40 (40 Theory Hours)

Syllabus: Criminal Law

Instructor: _____
Office hours: _____
Class hours: _____

Major Instructional Areas

1. Fundamentals of criminal law
2. Substantive criminal law
3. Procedural criminal law
4. Matters affecting criminal responsibility
5. Crimes against persons
6. Crimes against property
7. Juvenile law and the courts
8. Crimes against public order
9. Crimes against the judicial system
10. Organized, white-collar, and environmental crimes

Course Objectives

1. Explore the historical background of criminal law.
2. Identify the fundamentals of criminal law.
3. Identify the criminal act and mental elements in the commission of a crime.
4. Describe affirmative defenses.
5. Classify crimes against persons.

6. Classify sex offenses.
7. Define the essential elements of theft and robbery.
8. Define the essential elements of false imprisonment, abduction, and kidnapping.
9. Analyze property crimes.
10. Identify drug and alcohol offenses.
11. Define crimes against public order.
12. Analyze offenses by and against juveniles.
13. Analyze crimes affecting the judicial system.
14. Identify organized, white-collar, and environmental crimes.

SCANS Objectives

SCANS is an acronym for Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills. The committee, created by the National Secretary of Labor in the early 1990s, created a list of skills and competencies that the committee feels are necessary for employees to function in a high-tech job market.

1. Complete assignments while maintaining academic integrity and honesty.
2. Demonstrate the ability to use the traditional and electronic library sources.
3. Identify the need for data; evaluate information and communicate the results to others in written, graphic, and pictorial formats.
4. Juxtapose two theories and defend one of the two.
5. Communicate ideas to justify positions.
6. Interpret and respond to written and verbal messages and other cues.
7. Search for information in a variety of documents and interpret it.
8. Develop critical-reading skills and thinking processes.

Course Outline

Note: All graded activities, except the Project, are listed below in the pattern of <Unit Number>.<Assignment Number>. For example, Writing Assignment 3.1 refers to the 1st writing activity in Unit 3.

Unit	Activities
1– Historical Background and Fundamentals of American Criminal Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Covered: <p><i>Essentials of Criminal Law:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 1, “Historical Background of Criminal Law” ○ Chapter 2, “Fundamentals of Criminal Law” ○ Chapter 3, “Jurisdiction” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Part 1: Start
2– Criminal Acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Essentials of Criminal Law:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 4, “The Criminal Act” ○ Chapter 5, “The Mental Element” ○ Chapter 6, “Matters Affecting Criminal Responsibility: Affirmative Defenses” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes: 2.1
3– Crimes Against Persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Essentials of Criminal Law:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 7, “Assault and Related Crimes” ○ Chapter 8, “Homicide” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentations: 3.1 • Writing Assignments: 3.1
4– Sex Offenses and Abduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Essentials of Criminal Law:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 9, “Sex Offenses and Offenses to the Family Relationship” ○ Chapter 15, “False Imprisonment, Abduction, and Kidnapping” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes: 4.1 • Project Part 1: Submit

Unit	Activities
5– Theft and Robbery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Essentials of Criminal Law</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 10, “Theft” ○ Chapter 11, “Robbery” • Group Presentations: 5.1 • Writing Assignments: 5.1 • Project Part 2: Start
6– Crimes Against Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Essentials of Criminal Law</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 12, “Burglary and Related Offenses” ○ Chapter 13, “Arson” ○ Chapter 14, “Forgery and Related Offenses” • Group Presentations: 6.1
7– Drug and Alcohol Offenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Essentials of Criminal Law</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 16, “Crimes Involving Narcotic Drugs and Alcoholic Beverages” • Read the U.S. Code <i>Controlled Substance Act, Title 21–Food and Drugs, Chapter 13, “Drug Abuse Prevention and Control,”</i> available from the ITT Tech Virtual Library • Quizzes: 7.1
8– Offenses By and Against Juveniles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Essentials of Criminal Law</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 18, “Offenses By and Against Juveniles” • Read U.S. Supreme Court case: <i>Roper v. Simmons</i>, 543 U.S. 551 (2005), available from the ITT Tech Virtual Library • Read U.S. Supreme Court case: <i>In Re Gault</i>, 387 U.S. 1 (1967) available from the ITT Tech Virtual Library • Group Presentations: 8.1

Unit	Activities
9– Crimes Against Public Order, Organized, White-Collar, and Environmental Crimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Essentials of Criminal Law</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 21, “Crimes Against Public Order” ○ Chapter 22, “Organized, White-Collar, and Commercial Crimes” • Project Part 2: Submit
10– Crimes Affecting the Judicial System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Essentials of Criminal Law</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 20, “Crimes Affecting the Judicial Process”
11– Course Review and Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Review • Final Exam

Instructional Methods

The Criminal Law course is designed to promote a variety of teaching strategies that support the outcomes described in the course objectives and that foster higher cognitive skills. Delivery makes use of various methods and media including lectures, classroom participation, and analyses of real-world criminal law situations.

This course includes assessment strategies to help measure your grasp of the key concepts. Assessments include writing assignments, group presentations, quizzes, a final exam, and the project. For paralegal students, this project will be included as part of your paralegal student portfolio.

Instructional Materials and References

Student Textbook Package

Chamelin, Neil C., and Andrew Thomas, *Essentials of Criminal Law, 10th ed.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2009.

References

ITT Tech Virtual Library

Log on to the ITT Tech Virtual Library at <http://library.itt-tech.edu/> to access online books, journals, and other reference resources selected to support ITT Tech curricula.

Periodicals

Click "Periodicals" from the home page to find the following periodicals.

- *Criminal Justice*
Periodicals> ProQuest Criminal Justice Periodicals> Criminal Justice
A full-text version available online. Published quarterly by the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association and intended for a national audience of defense lawyers, prosecutors, judges, academics, and other criminal justice professionals with a focus on the practice and policy issues of the criminal justice system. Each issue includes feature articles as well as regular columns. Occasional thematic issues focus on one particular aspect of the criminal justice system.
- *Crime and Delinquency*
Periodicals> ProQuest> Criminal Justice Periodicals> Crime and Delinquency
Published quarterly in cooperation with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.
- *The Federal Probation, A Journal of Correctional Philosophy and Practice*
School of Criminal Justice> Recommended Links> Law> U.S. Courts> Library
Published by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts
- *LexisNexis Academic*

Periodicals> LexisNexis Academic

Online research tool organized into 5 categories for researching international news and magazine articles, as well as transcripts, legal research, and medical journals.

Reference Resources

You may click "Reference Resources" on the home page to find the following reference resources.

- Additional Reference Resources> Law> Landmark Supreme Court Cases
- Additional Reference Resources> Law> Guide to Law Online

School of Study

You may click “School of Criminal Justice” on the home page to find the following links.

- Professional Organizations> The American Society of Criminology
An international organization that pursues scholarly, scientific, and professional knowledge on measurement, etiology, consequences, prevention, control, and treatment of crime and delinquency.

Other References

The following resources may be found **outside** of the ITT Tech Virtual Library whether online or in hard copy.

Periodical

- Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture
<http://albany.edu/scj/jcipc>
Published by the School of Criminal Justice, University of Albany.

Web sites

- The American Bar Association (ABA)
<http://www.abanet.org>
Largest voluntary professional association in the world with more than 400,000 members, the ABA provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information about the law, programs to assist lawyers and judges in their work, and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public.
- The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
www.cjcj.org
A private nonprofit organization whose mission is to reduce society’s reliance on the use of incarceration as a solution to social problems.
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
www.fbi.gov/
The home page for the FBI site with links to breaking news, most wanted list and FBI current and archived cases.
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
www.grandlodgefop.org

The Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, with more than 2000 lodges and 294,000 members.

- Law Library Research Guide: A Dictionary for First Year Students
<http://gmu.edu/departments/law/libtech/dictionary.html>
This site is George Mason University's online glossary of terms for new law students.
- The National Association of Drug Court Professionals
www.nadcp.org
The National Association of Drug Court Professionals seeks to reduce substance abuse, crime, and recidivism by promoting and advocating for the establishment and funding of Drug Courts and providing for collection and dissemination of information, technical assistance, and mutual support to association members.
- National District Attorneys Association
www.ndaa.org/index.html
The National District Attorneys Association was created to be the voice of America's prosecutors and to support their efforts to protect the rights and safety of the people.
- Office of National Drug Control Policy
www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov
The principal purpose of the Office of National Drug Control Policy is to establish policies, priorities, and objectives for the nation's drug control program, the goals of which are to reduce illicit drug use, manufacturing, and trafficking; drug-related crime and violence; and drug-related health consequences.
- Oyez Project
<http://www.oyez.org/>
This multimedia archive is devoted to the Supreme Court of the United States and its work. It aims to be a complete and authoritative source for all audio recorded in the Court since the installation of a recording system in October 1955.
- U.S. Department of Justice
www.usdoj.gov

This is the home page of the United States Department of Justice.

All links to Web references outside of the ITT Tech Virtual Library are always subject to change without prior notice.

Course Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation Criteria Table

The final grades will be based on the following categories:

CATEGORY	WEIGHT
Group Presentations	20%
Writing Assignments	10%
Quizzes	30%
Project	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Note: Students are responsible for abiding by the Plagiarism Policy.

Grade Conversion Table

The final grades will be calculated from the percentages earned in the course, as follows:

A	90-100%	4.0
B+	85-89%	3.5
B	80-84%	3.0
C+	75-79%	2.5
C	70-74%	2.0
D+	65-69%	1.5

D	60-64%	1.0
F	<60%	0.0