



Course Syllabus

CRIJ 1310 – Fundamentals of Criminal Law

Revision Date: 1/9/2017

Catalog Description: This course is the study of criminal law including application of definitions, statutory elements, defenses and penalties using Texas statutes, the Model Penal Code, and case law. The course also analyzes the philosophical and historical development of criminal law and criminal culpability.

Lecture hours = 3, Lab hours = 0

Prerequisites: None

Semester Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours per Week: 3

Lab Hours per Week: 0

Contact Hours per Semester: 48

State Approval Code: 22.0101.53 24

Core Components and Related College Student Learning Outcomes

This course counts as part of the academic requirements of the Panola College Core Curriculum and an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree. Yes No: If no, skip to Instructional Goals.

The items below marked with an X reflect the state-mandated outcomes for this course **IF this is a CORE course:**

- Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and syntheses of information
 - CT1: Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information
 - CT2: Gather and assess information relevant to a question
 - CT3: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information
- Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
 - CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication
 - CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through oral communication
 - CS3: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
 - EQS1: Manipulate and analyze numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion
 - EQS2: Manipulate and analyze observable facts and arrive at an informed conclusion
- Teamwork – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with

others to support a shared purpose or goal

- TW1: Integrate different viewpoints as a member of a team
- TW2: Work with others to support and accomplish a shared goal
- Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
 - PR1: Evaluate choices and actions and relate consequences to decision-making
- Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
 - SR1: Demonstrate intercultural competence
 - SR2: Identify civic responsibility
 - SR3: Engage in regional, national, and global communities

Instructional Goals and Purposes:

The purpose of this course is to:

1. Present an overview of criminal law and examine Texas criminal statutes.
2. Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law.
3. List the elements of crimes using the Texas statutes as an illustration.
4. Discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes.

Learning Outcomes: [from the ACGM catalog]

After studying all materials and resources presented in the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the elements of crimes and defenses under Texas statutes, Model Penal Code, and case law.
2. Classify offenses and articulate penalties for various crimes.
3. Compare culpable mental states when assigning criminal responsibility.
4. Assess the impact of history and philosophy on current criminal laws.
5. Evaluate the application of criminal law to other areas of criminal justice such as law enforcement and corrections.

Course Content:

A general description of lecture/discussion topics included in this course are listed in the Learning Objectives / Specific Course Objectives sections of this syllabus.

Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:

1. Foundations of Criminal Law
2. Elements of a Crime
3. The Criminal Law in Daily Practice
4. Parties to Offenses
5. Criminal homicide
6. Assault and Sexual Assault
7. Kidnapping and Related Offenses
8. Property Destruction Offenses

9. Theft, Fraud, and Related Offenses
10. Robbery, Burglary, and Criminal Trespass
11. Offenses Against Government Operations
12. Public Order, Indecency, Health, and Safety Offenses
13. Intoxication Offenses
14. General Defenses and Justifications

Methods of Instruction/Course Format/Delivery:

This course is offered in online, face-to-face, and/or Hybrid formats. For the traditional classroom course, teaching approaches are expected to vary with individual instructors who should employ those techniques that work best for them and their students. Although lecture and reading assignments are the primary forms of delivery, other instructional methods may involve classroom discussion, student presentations and lectures, audio-visual instruction, invited speakers, critical thinking activities, in class writing exercises designed to stimulate critical thinking, and group activities. Distance learning is also available for students who cannot attend lectures and who are capable of the amount of self-direction and discipline required to complete such a course. Reading the materials, communication via email, and on-line discussion are some of the methods used for distance learning.

Major Assignments / Assessments:

The following items will be assigned and assessed during the semester and used to calculate the student's final grade.

Assignments

Faculty may assign both in and out of class assignments, essay projects, and exams to assess the student's knowledge and abilities. Faculty may also choose from the following assessment criteria:

1. Exams
2. Tests
3. Quizzes
4. Internet Assignments
5. Journal Assignments
6. Library Assignments
7. Written Assignments
8. Attendance
9. Class Participation
10. Class Preparedness

Assessment(s):

1. Students must demonstrate their mastery of the course objectives by scoring 70% or better on Test 1.
2. Students must demonstrate their mastery of the course objectives by scoring 70% or better on Test 2.
3. Students must demonstrate their mastery of the course objectives by scoring 70% or better on Test 3.
4. Students must demonstrate their mastery of the course objectives by scoring a 70% or better on a written assignment.

5. Students must demonstrate their mastery of the course objectives by scoring a 70% or better on a comprehensive Final Exam.

6. Student semester grades are calculated in accordance with the Course Grade weights as listed below. The student is considered to have mastered the course objectives if the student has a final semester grade of 70% or higher.

Course Grade:

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

- Test 1 – 20% (proctored)
- Test 2 – 20% (proctored)
- Test 3 – 20% (proctored)
- Chapter Quizzes – at the end of the semester, the chapter quiz average will substitute for Test 1, 2, or 3 grade provided the quiz average is higher than the lowest test 1, 2, or 3 grade. The quiz average constitutes all assigned quizzes, not just completed quizzes.
- Written Assignment – 15% (submitted via Canvas or current LMS)
- Final Exam – 25% (proctored)

For shortened semesters, i.e. Winter Term, Summer 1, and/or Summer 2 when time and testing facility hours are modified, the grading scale is modified as follows:

- Mid Term – 30% (proctored)
- Final Exam – 30% (proctored)
- Quiz Average – 25%
- Written Assignment – 15%

Subjective grading – in circumstances where student grades are borderline and the issue of rounding the grade up comes into question, the professor may consider your classroom attendance record, your class participation level, and/or your perceived preparedness level for class in determining to round up or not.

Texts, Materials, and Supplies:

- Texas Criminal Law; Principles and Practices, 2nd, Dowling, Pearson

Required Readings:

- Texas Criminal Law; Principles and Practices, 2nd, Dowling, Pearson
- Links and/or Materials provided within the Canvas course

Recommended Readings:

- Local and National newspaper and/or magazine/journal articles relevant to the subject matter issues discussed

Other:

- For current texts and materials, use the following link to access bookstore listings:
<http://www.panolacollegestore.com>

- For testing services, use the following link: <http://www.panola.edu/elearning/testing.html>
- If any student in this class has special classroom or testing needs because of a physical learning or emotional condition, please contact the ADA Student Coordinator in Support Services located in the Administration Building or go to <http://www.panola.edu/student-success/disability-support-services/> for more information.
- Withdrawing from a course is the student's responsibility. Students who do not attend class and who do not withdraw will receive the grade earned for the course.
- Student Handbook, *The Pathfinder*: <http://www.panola.edu/student-success/documents/pathfinder.pdf>