

Skyline College

Official Course Outline

Date: August 2008

1. TITLE:

ADMJ 104 – Concepts of Criminal Law

3.0 units. Three lecture hours per week

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 836

2. COURSE CLASSIFICATION:

Credit course applicable to the Associate Degree, and to the Criminal Justice Certificate

3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Catalog Description:

Historical development and philosophy of criminal law and constitutional provisions. Special emphasis on legal definitions, the classifications of crime and their application to the administration of justice system. Study of case law, methodology, and concepts of law as a social force.

Also listed as LEGL 304.

Schedule of Classes Description:

Historical development and philosophy of criminal law and constitutional provisions.

Also listed as LEGL 304.

4. COURSE JUSTIFICATION:

This is a transfer course to fulfill General Education requirements of the Associate Degree (F3), and is transferable as follows: CSU. This course is a required course in the Administration of Justice Program curriculum for students seeking a Criminal Justice Certificate.

5. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO'S):

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the origin, development, scope, sources, and purpose of criminal law, its application at the state and federal levels of government, its relationship to constitutional provisions, and its difference from non-criminal civil/tort law.
- Distinguish among various laws governing criminal conduct, including crimes against persons, property, public peace and order, and morals; and cite and define their classifications, basic elements, corpus delicti, and penalties.
- Discuss basic criminal law concepts, such as general and specific intent, capacity to commit crime, defenses to criminal responsibility (such as excusable and justifiable), and the parties to crime (such as principals, accessories, and accomplices).

6. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

To assist students in reaching the goals outlined in the course SLO's, this course will include:

- Study of the history, evolution, and development of the criminal law, and its applicability at the state and federal levels of government to achieve the purposes of the administration of justice.

- Exploration of the basic definitions, classifications, and components of criminal law, to include their elements, corpus delicti, and penalties that may be imposed upon convicted offenders.
- Analysis of the role of the U.S. Constitution, the state constitution, statute law, and case law in the application of criminal law in society.
- Discussion of legal defenses to criminal responsibility, including the distinction between excusable and justifiable defenses such as the legal capacity to commit crime, insanity, entrapment, self-defense, and necessity.
- Consideration of the legal, moral, and practical aspects of the criminal law in controlling human conduct and protecting society from crime and disorder.
- Examination and evaluation of the role of the police in enforcing the criminal law in society.

7. COURSE CONTENT:

- a. Scope and Source of Criminal Law
- b. Classification of Crimes and Penalties
- c. Elements of Crime and Corpus Delicti
- d. Capacity to Commit Crime and Insanity Defense
- e. Parties to Crime
- f. Inchoate Crimes: Attempts, Solicitation, and Conspiracy
- g. Laws of Arrest
- h. Offenses Against the Public Peace
- i. Dangerous Weapons Control Laws
- j. Types of Assaults
- k. Homicides
- l. Restraint Crimes and Sex Assault Crime
- m. Public Safety and Morals
- n. Burglary
- o. Robbery and Extortion
- p. Theft and Embezzlement
- q. Controlled Substance and Alcohol Abuse Crimes
- r. Miscellaneous Offenses
- s. Legal Defenses to Criminal Liability
- t. Factual Impossibility and Legal Impossibility

8. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Methods of instruction will include:

- Lectures on course lessons, text readings (25-50 pages assigned per week), and related topics, combined with class discussions to stimulate critical thinking and provide students with opportunities to demonstrate understanding of course material. Students are expected to take notes and engage in class and group discussions to maximize retention of the course material.
- Reviews of course related handouts, articles, illustrations, and current events to enhance the students' experience by exploring and applying material to a contemporary real-world setting.
- Audiovisual presentations which illustrate and enhance the concepts of topics covered in class.
- Tests, quizzes, research papers, and writing assignments to demonstrate comprehension of the course material through hands-on applications and written examinations.

Methods of instruction may also be augmented by:

- Practical demonstrations, displays, and in-class role-playing exercises, as applicable to the topic.
- Student interviews of criminal justice professionals and preparing a written report on the results.
- Guest speakers with expertise in various areas of criminal justice, to provide diverse and unique perspectives on a variety of controversial issues in their field.
- Field trips to law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies, courts, jails, and prisons.
- Individual student consultations, as necessary, to ensure that student learning is taking place.
- Practical work experience such as ride-alongs or other applicable site work to enhance learning.

9. ASSIGNMENTS:

Typical assignments:

- a. Research and Writing or Oral assignments about course related topics which demonstrate student knowledge, comprehension, and application skills, may include:
 - term papers, short papers, research papers, essay papers, and oral presentation reports.
 - reports on field interviews, site visits, observations, work performed, or film critiques.
- b. Case Study assignments to develop critical thinking and concept application, may include:
 - reviewing and critiquing Supreme Court, appellate court, and trial court cases.
 - responding to the questions, scenarios, or case studies included in text chapters.
- c. Tests and Quizzes, consisting of the written, oral, and/or practical application variety to assess comprehension of assigned readings, course content, and other related course activities.

10. EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:

Typical methods of evaluation of student performance may include the following:

- a. Written examinations, such as quizzes, midterm exams, and final exams to demonstrate student understanding and proficiency skills concerning the material presented in the course.
- b. In-class and out of class assignments to demonstrate student ability to apply course concepts to assigned tasks utilizing comprehension, application, analysis, and critical thinking skills.
- c. Case study exercises to demonstrate student ability to integrate multiple concepts to solve realistic situations.
- d. Class discussions of course material to permit the exchange of ideas involving a variety of course related issues and concerns.
- e. Attendance and promptness, class citizenship and conduct, and participation and cooperation.
- f. Grading Method: Letter Grade.

11. RECOMMENDED or REQUIRED TEXT(S):

The recommended or required course textbook, selected at the discretion of the course instructor, may include (but is not limited to) the following suggested current editions on the subject matter:

- *California Criminal Law Concepts*, by Derald D. Hunt and Devallis Rutledge; published by Pearson Custom Publishing.
- *California Criminal Codes*, by Cliff Roberson; published by Thompson-Wadsworth.
- *Criminal Law*, by Joel Samaha; published by Thompson-Wadsworth.
- *Criminal Law for the Criminal Justice Professional*, by Norman M. Garland; published by McGraw-Hill.