

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: February 10, 2017

Date Approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 1, 2017

Effective: Fall 2017

1. Course Number: CRJ103

Course Title: Criminal Law

2. Description: This course is a study of the nature and extent of substantive law and the rules of criminal procedure, the historical and philosophical foundations of criminal law, highlighting the major concepts of crimes and penalties, and the overall legal system. It will include an emphasis on contemporary state and federal laws and the Constitution of the United States.

3. Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following.

- Identify the general principles of substantive law and the elements of various types of crime.
- Delineate the various ethical dilemmas that exist within the criminal justice system as they pertain to arrest, prosecution, and sentencing, as well as legal defenses.
- Demonstrate communication skills by organizing and presenting ideas relative to laws and the legal system in a logical order.
- Illustrate the role of the Courts and explain the impact of the decisions of the United States Supreme Court.
- Identify and analyze Constitutional Amendments and how they are applied to substantive and procedural law.
- Engage in critical thinking, logical analysis, and research in the history and development of criminal law and criminal procedure.
- Demonstrate an appreciation for cultural diversity and its role in the legal system.

4. Credits: 3 credits

5. Satisfies General Education Requirement: No

6. Prerequisite: None

7. Semester Offered: Fall, Spring

8. Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: The student's final grade will be based on examinations, written assignments, and other forms of assessments.

9. General Topical Outline

The Nature and Origin of Criminal Law

The Constitution of the United States

Elements Constitute a Crime

Inchoate Crimes

Various Defenses

Crimes Against People

Crimes Against Property

Rules of Evidence

Rules of Criminal Procedure

The Court System

Trial Process

Sentencing

The Appellate Process