

FUNDAMENTALS OF CRIMINAL LAW

Online Syllabus

Instructor Name: Danny Morgan

Institution Course Number: CRIJ 1310

Office Location: B227-A

Telephone Number: 979-230-3442 (Office)

E-mail address: Danny.Morgan@brazosport.edu

979-799-5873 (Cell)

I. Course Description.

A study of the nature of criminal law. Topics include philosophical and historical development, definitions and concepts, classification of crime, elements of crime, and penalties and individual criminal responsibilities.

II. Course Content.

This course is designed to introduce law enforcement personnel and others in the criminal justice field to the main principals of American criminal law via recent court opinions and legislative acts that illustrate the current status of those principals of American criminal law.

This course is structured to provide motivated students with opportunities to master a body of knowledge on the current state of American criminal law.

III. Required Textbook.

Criminal Law, 13th Edition: Thomas J. Gardner and Terry M. Anderson, Boston: Cengage.

In addition to the textbook, students will be required to locate specific articles, videos, and reports on the Internet.

IV. Course Requirements.

Because this is an online course, students are expected to use self-discipline to pace themselves and keep current. You should be prepared to devote from 15-20 hours of work to this class per week (the equivalent of three/four hours of class time, plus the “traditional” two hours per class time of study for each unit of credit, plus three hours to answer study questions).

The course is ideally designed for the student who cannot or does not want to attend regularly scheduled on-campus classes. Students can complete course requirements while continuing to meet other responsibilities and demands. When and where you work is not important; what matters is completing the work in a timely fashion while meeting course content requirements.

V. Assignments.

The course is divided into “Weekly” assignments. Before you read the assigned chapter(s), read the “Review Questions” at the end of each chapter in the textbook weekly. When you finish the chapter, look at the “Key Terms” in each chapter. Those are major concepts you should know and be able to define.

Questions about your readings can be raised (and will be answered) during the online Discussion Board.” Feel free to ask questions. Please check the Discussion Board to be sure that others have not already raised that question and received an answer. All students have access to the Discussion Board; this is where you can best communicate with your instructor or teaching coordinator.

Fundamentals of Criminal Law
Online Syllabus
Page 2

Remember to check the “Announcements” on a frequent basis, as it may be necessary to raise additional issues or clarify assignments. Even if you are a “flash” student intending to complete course requirements as rapidly as possible, you may need the additional information about weekly assignments.

VI. Internet Readings.

At least one Internet reading will be required for each chapter assigned. Click on the URL to locate the assigned readings. We strongly suggest you save the readings electronically, or print them and organize them in a three-ring binder or folder. Exam questions may be derived from internet readings.

VII. Examinations.

There will be a midterm and final examination.

The midterm covers materials assigned for from chapters 1 thru 9. It will consist of multiple-choice and true-false questions. Availability dates are posted in D2L in the assignment section.

The final examination will be over chapters 10-19. The final examination will consist of multiple-choice, true-false and short answer questions.

It is important that you complete the scheduled examinations. Only in exceptional cases will students be permitted to take an examination late.

Any extra credit work will be in the form of a research paper. Papers will be graded on organization, content, grammar, and currency (recent sources). Observe the minimal requirements above.

IX. Student Exercises.

Exercises may be required for this course. They are to be submitted to your instructor when you finish. In your written answer, be sure to speak directly to the question and use the format indicated.

X. Grading.

The midterm and final examination each count for 30% of your final grade (60% total). Student Quizzes/Exercises will count for 20% of your grade and discussion participation will account for 20%.

Fundamentals of Criminal Law
Online Syllabus
Page 3

GRADING POLICY

Course grade will be determined by the student's performance on the following objectives:

Mid-Term	30%
Final Exam	30%
Quizzes	20%
Discussion Participation	20%
Total:	100%
A=	90-100%
B=	80-89%
C=	70-79%
D=	60-69%
F=	59% and below

XI. Assignments.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Textbook Reading Assig.</u>	<u>Additional Readings/Assign.</u>
1.	Criminal Law: (Purposes, Scope, & Sources)	Chapter 1	As Assigned
2.	Jurisdiction	Chapter 2	As assigned
3.	Essential Elements of a Crime	Chapter 3	As assigned
4.	Criminal Liability	Chapter 4	As assigned
5.	Criminal Responsibility and the capacity to commit a crime	Chapter 5	As assigned
6.	The Law Governing the Use of force	Chapter 6	As assigned
7.	Other Criminal Defenses	Chapter 7	As assigned
8.	Criminal Punishments	Chapter 8	As assigned
9.	Free Speech, Public Order Crimes and The Bill of Rights	Chapter 9	As assigned

Midterm Examination-March 2nd- March 6th

Fundamentals of Criminal Law
Online Syllabus
Page 4

10. Homicide	Chapter 10	As assigned
11. Assault, Battery, and Other Crimes Against the person	Chapter 11	As assigned
12. Sexual Assault, Rape, Prostitution and related sex crimes	Chapter 12	As assigned
13. Theft	Chapter 13	As assigned
14. Robbery, Burglary, and related Crimes	Chapter 14	As assigned
15. White-Collar Crime, Cyber Crime, and Commercial Crime	Chapter 15	As assigned
16. Drug Abuse and Alcohol-Related Crimes	Chapter 16	As assigned
17. Terrorism	Chapter 17	As assigned
18. Organized Crime and Gangs	Chapter 18	As assigned
19. Immigration Crimes, Contempt, and Other Crimes Against the Government	Chapter 19	As assigned

FINAL EXAM-April 27th thru May 4th.