

**IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE**  
**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Semester:** Fall  
**Credits:** 3  
**Class Meetings:** Monday and Wednesday from 4:45pm until 6:10pm.  
**Classroom:** 212

**Instructor:** Cory Van Driessche  
**Contact Information:** cvandriessche@hotmail.com  
**Office Hours:** I can be contacted in person after any of the assigned classes in the classroom if you need assistance or have questions about the course.

The Imperial Valley College is in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws concerning reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students must register with Disabled Student Services in a timely manner for appropriate accommodations.

**Required Text:** Criminal Law (2011) (10th ed.) Samaha

**Course Description:** Consult the Imperial Valley College class catalog for course description.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

Students who take this course will demonstrate:

- An understanding of what behavior deserves criminal punishment.
- An understanding and appreciation of the reasons for the limits on criminal law and criminal punishment in the U.S. constitutional democracy.
- The ability to identify the elements of, and to explain why, the voluntary act is the first principle of criminal liability.
- An understanding and appreciation for the fact that most *serious* crimes require criminal intent *and* a criminal act.
- Knowledge of the fact that the law of self-defense is undergoing major transformation.
- An understanding that defendants who plead an excuse defense admit what they did was wrong but argue that, under the circumstances, they were not responsible for their actions.

**Grading:**

A= 90-100

B= 80-90

C=70-80

D= 60-70

F= below 60

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Turn off beepers and phones. **NO TEXT-MESSAGING IS PERMITTED DURING CLASS SESSIONS AND EXAM SESSIONS.**
2. **Attendance:** is vital for success in this course. During the course of the semester you will be required to not only be present for course lectures, but to participate in-group discussions and generate written assignments on a regular basis. There will be no late work accepted. Therefore, you are responsible for attending class and meeting all scheduled deadlines. Anyone who misses more than 2 class meetings will not receive a passing grade for the course.
3. There will be **no make-up examinations or late assignments accepted.** If you are absent, you will not be able to make up work your classmates did during class time. There will be no individual extra credit assignments given to make up points. If you must miss class, please send me an email before class begins, and attach any work that is due that day.
4. **Plagiarism:** is the presentation of work or ideas other than one's own. Any course work that is found to be plagiarized will receive a grade of zero. **Cheating** is seeking, obtaining or accessing information in any form other than the student's unprompted knowledge. Cheating on a test will result in a loss of all credit for that test. Cheating on an assignment will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.
5. **Breaks:**  
Return promptly from breaks. Classes are to meet for the full time listed in the schedule, and break time cannot be used to start later or finish the class ahead of time.
6. **Leaving Class Early or Not Returning From Breaks:**  
You will be counted as absent if you do not stay for the whole class. You will receive a 0 for each day you leave class early or fail to return from a break.
7. **Food, Drinks and Smoking:**  
College policy forbids food and drinks (except water) in all classrooms and forbids smoking in all college facilities. You must observe these policies.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Examinations (100 points each)  
There will be four examinations covering material presented in the text and in the lectures. Each examination will be comprised of multiple-choice questions and true/false questions.
  
2. Assignments (100 points)  
During the semester students will be required to work in groups on class activities and to complete four assignments.

**Tentative Schedule:**

Week One  
Introduction and Chapter 1 in the Samaha text

Week Two  
Chapter 1 in the Samaha text

Week Three  
Chapter 2 in the Samaha text

Week Four  
Chapter 3 in the Samaha text

Week Five  
Exam 1 over chapters 1-3 in the Samaha text  
Chapter 4 in the Samaha text

Week Six  
Chapter 4 in the Samaha text

Week Seven  
Chapter 5 in the Samaha text

Week Eight  
Chapter 6 in the Samaha text

Week Six  
Exam 2 over chapters 4-6 in the Samaha text  
Chapter 7 in the Samaha text

Week Seven  
Chapter 7 in the Samaha text

Week Eight

Chapter 8 in the Samaha text

Week Nine

Chapter 9 in the Samaha text

Week Ten

Exam 3 over chapters 7-9

Chapter 10 in the Samaha text

Week Eleven

Chapter 10 in the Samaha text

Week Twelve

Chapter 11 in the Samaha text

Week Thirteen

Chapter 12 in the Samaha text

Week Fourteen

Chapter 13 in the Samaha text

Week Fifteen

Review

Chapter 13 in the Samaha text

Week Sixteen

Exam 4 over chapters 10-13