



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2024	Instructor Name:	Brett Houser
Course Title & #:	Concepts of Criminal Law AJ-102	Email:	brett.houser@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20356	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Rm 3212	Office #:	Rm 3207
Class Dates:	02-12-24 to 06-06-24	Office Hours:	Mon-Thurs, 1500-1600 hrs.
Class Days:	T/R	Office Phone #:	760-335-6257
Class Times:	1300-1425	Emergency Contact:	760-335-6300
Units:	3	Class Format:	In-person

Course Description

The course covers the historical development of law and constitutional provision, definitions and the classification of crime, the application of crimes to the system of administration of justice, legal research, the study of case law, methodology, and concepts of law as a social force is presented. Crimes against persons, property, government, and organized crime are discussed. (CSU, UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- Identify the difference between criminal and civil law (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4).
- Identify liability and how liability is determined. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5).
- Demonstrate understanding of various crime groups: Crimes against People, Crimes against Property, and Crimes against the Government. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4).

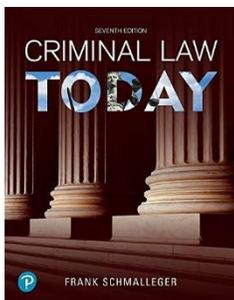
Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Synthesize the historical development and philosophy of the law.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the United States Constitution and Constitutional legal issues through assigned writings and case studies.
- Restate and explain basic legal definitions and concepts.
- Formulate an appreciation of the value of case studies and legal research to interpret court decisions concerning written statutes.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge and application of specific criminal violations.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Author: Frank Schmalleger
Textbook: Criminal Law Today, 7th edition
Publisher: Pearson, 2022
Student Edition ISBN: 978-0-13-597038-6



**All other course materials can be accessed through Canvas.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Course Structure:

Overview:

- The course consists of 16 weeks.
- Each module is designed to last approximately one week.
- Modules are accessible through the "Module" link on the left side of any course page within CANVAS.
- Accessibility: All module content is accessible via CANVAS, ensuring students can easily find and complete their weekly tasks.

Recommended Weekly Procedure:

- Module Commencement:
 - Begin by exploring the "[Module Overview](#) and [This week you will learn to...](#)" tab each week.
 - This section summarizes weekly activities and guides students through the tasks and activities planned for the week.

Classroom Instruction:

- PowerPoint presentations corresponding to each text chapter will be delivered during class sessions.
 - Note: These presentations are supplemental and not mandatory. They are provided (CANVAS) for students who wish to engage in additional study.

Assignment Completion:

- Students are encouraged to complete assignments, discussions, quizzes, and other module-related materials punctually. A due date can be found in this syllabus's Anticipated Schedule/Calendar section.
- Be aware: All assignment components will become inaccessible three days after the due date. It is crucial to stay on schedule to avoid falling behind.



Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

There will be 13 instructor-led presentations/facilitated classroom sessions, two mid-term presentation sessions, ten assignments, four quizzes, and a final exam during the course.

Assignments can also be found on the Course Menu under the “Assignments” link (CANVAS). The assignments are based on the material covered during the week. Most assignments require preparation activities before they can be completed, so it is highly recommended that you begin the effort as early as possible in the week.

Assignments are typically due at the beginning of class the following week. Assignments not submitted by the due date will have a 10% deduction for each day late. Assignments WILL NOT be accepted after 3 days.

Writing Expectations: In this class, writing is a significant component. As a college-level course, all submitted work is expected to reflect a high standard of academic quality. This means:

- Attention to Spelling and Grammar:
 - Ensure that your writing is free from spelling and grammatical errors.
 - While spell-check tools are helpful, they are not infallible. Therefore, it's essential to proofread your work manually. Spell check may not identify specific types of mistakes, such as correctly spelled but incorrectly used words.
- Consequence of Errors:
 - Be aware that submissions with numerous grammar and spelling mistakes will result in points being deducted.
 - Remember, the quality of your writing reflects not only your understanding of the content but also your commitment to academic excellence.

This table represents the point allocation system for the course, which is broken down into various components that contribute to the final grade. Each course component is assigned specific points, reflecting its relative importance or the effort required.

Contents	Point Values	Assigned Points
Class Participation	15 weeks @ 10 points	150
Assignments	10 Assignments @ 25 points	250
Mid-Term Presentation	In-person (Video or PPT) @100	100
Quizzes	4 quizzes @ 25 points	100
Exams	Final Exam @ 200	200
Total Points		800

Class Participation (150 pts): This is an ongoing evaluation over 16 weeks, with each week offering an opportunity to earn up to 10 points. This could involve class discussion engagement or other participatory activities. The total points one can earn from class participation over the course is 150. This suggests that consistent engagement throughout the term is crucial.



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Assignments (250 pts): There are 10 assignments in total, each worth 25 points. This section accounts for a significant portion of the grade, emphasizing the importance of understanding and applying course material. Grading rubrics are included with each assignment.

Mid-Term Presentation (100 pts): A mid-term presentation is a significant course component. Your mid-term presentation will be a presentation on a Case Study. The presentation will consist of a 3–5-page written report with at least 3 references. You must also include a PowerPoint presentation of 5-7 slides with notes. You may pick any of the cases listed from these [Famous Trial](#) cases. **If none of these cases interest you, please meet with the instructor by the fourth week of class. Grading rubrics are included with each project.

****You will present your mid-term project as a 3–5-minute video or in-class presentation****

Quizzes (100 pts): There are 4 quizzes scheduled, each worth 25 points. Quizzes test understanding of recent material or critical concepts.

Exams (200 pts): This is an assessment of the entire course content. The Final Exam will be cumulative and cover Chapters 1-14. The final exam will be held during Finals week. The exam will be conducted in person during the regularly scheduled class session. The exam is worth 200 points and will consist of multiple-choice, True/False, and essay questions. There is no make-up examination.

Total Points (800 pts): This total is the sum of points from class participation, assignments, the mid-term presentation, quizzes, and the final exam.

Course Grade: The course grade is based on the total points accumulated during the semester. Grades are determined by dividing your points by the total points available (800). I will use the “Grades” link in Canvas to keep track of grades, but it is always a good idea to save your records to compare with the instructor’s records.

Final grades based on percentages: **90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 60% = F**

Course Policies

IVC Class Attendance-Requirements and Consequences (Title 5 Sections 55024 and 58004/ IVC AP5075)

- Regular Attendance Expected: All students are expected to attend classes regularly.
- First-Class Attendance: If a student fails to attend a class's first session, the instructor must drop them from the class roster.
- Excessive Unexcused Absences: A student may be dropped from the class if their total unexcused absences exceed six hours or four class sessions. This is in addition to the policy of dropping students after the first week for nonattendance and for having six instances of non-participation.
- Re-Admission Process: To rejoin the class after being dropped, the student must follow the standard procedure for adding a class, as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Student's Responsibility to Withdraw: It's important to note that while an instructor may drop a student for



excessive absences, the responsibility to withdraw from a class officially lies with the student.

- Excused Absences:
 - College Representation: Absences from participation in officially approved college events (like conferences, contests, or field trips) will be considered excused.

For more detailed information, please refer to the General Catalog. Remember, regular attendance is crucial for success in this course.

Classroom Etiquette (Education Code Sections 66300 and 66301; ACCJC Accreditation Standards I.C.8 and 10)

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drinks are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue coursework.
- Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, only students in the class may attend; children are not allowed.

Academic Honesty Policy for College Students (IVC AP 5500; 5520, 3720)

Academic honesty is essential for the advancement of knowledge. It requires respect for the intellectual property of others, both by students and instructors.

- Forms of Academic Dishonesty: This policy includes, but is not limited to, the following forms of dishonest behavior:
 - Plagiarism:
 - Presenting someone else's writing or ideas as your own without proper citation.
 - Understand and avoid plagiarism. If unsure about how to cite sources correctly, seek assistance.
 - Cheating:
 - Any form of deceit or dishonesty in academic assignments. This includes using or trying to use unauthorized materials, assistance, or helping others.
- Consequences: Being caught cheating or plagiarizing will result in a zero (0) on the exam or assignment. The incident may also be reported to the VP of Academic Instruction, leading to the possibility of expulsion.
- Repeated Offenses: Multiple instances of cheating may lead to failing the course and/or further disciplinary action.
- Examples of Cheating:
 - Plagiarism.
 - Copying from others during exams or assignments.
 - Sharing test information during an exam.
 - Allowing others to complete your assignments.
 - Using commercial services for assignments.
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Other Course Information

Office Hours (Monday to Thursday):

Time: 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Schedule Details:

Monday: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Thursday: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Room 3207 (Building 3200)

Note: If you cannot attend during these times, please contact the instructor to arrange an alternative meeting.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability needing educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is in Building DSPS, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you need to be evaluated for educational accommodation.

STUDENT COUNSELING AND HEALTH SERVICES

The pre-paid Student Health Fee provides Students with counseling and health services.

Student Health Center. A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and El Centro Regional Center provide essential health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC Student Health Center at 760-355-6310 in Room 2109 for more information.

Mental Health Counseling Services. Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process of law. Please refer to the IVC General Catalog for more information regarding student rights and responsibilities.

INFORMATION LITERACY

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC Library Department provides numerous Information Literacy Tutorials to assist students in this endeavor.



Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

DATES	DISCUSSIONS/CHAPTERS	ASSIGNMENTS/QUIZZES	DUE DATES
WEEK 1 2/13 & 2/15	INTRO	NONE	N/A
WEEK 2 2/20 & 2/22	CHAPTER 1	ASSIGNMENT 1	2/27
WEEK 3 2/27 & 2/29	CHAPTER 2	ASSIGNMENT 2	3/05
WEEK 4 3/05 & 3/07	CHAPTER 3	ASSIGNMENT 3 QUIZ 1	3/12
WEEK 3/12 & 3/14	CHAPTER 4	ASSIGNMENT 4	3/19
WEEK 6 3/19 & 3/21	CHAPTER 5 CHAPTER 6	ASSIGNMENT 5	3/26
WEEK 7 3/26 & 3/28	CHAPTER 7	QUIZ 2	N/A
SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
WEEK 8 4/9 & 4/11	CHAPTER 8	ASSIGNMENT 6	4/16
WEEK 9 4/16 & 4/18	CHAPTER 9	MIDTERM PRESENTATIONS	4/23
WEEK 10 4/23 & 4/25	MIDTERM PRESENTATIONS	N/A	
WEEK 11 4/30 & 5/02	CHAPTER 10	ASSIGNMENT 7 QUIZ 3	5/07
WEEK 12 5/07 & 5/09	CHAPTER 11	ASSIGNMENT 8	5/14
WEEK 13	CHAPTER 12	ASSIGNMENT 9	5/21



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5/14 & 5/16			
WEEK 14 5/21 & 5/23	CHAPTER 13	ASSIGNMENT 10 QUIZ 4	5/28
WEEK 15 5/28 & 5/30	CHAPTER 14	FINAL EXAM PREP	6/6
WEEK 16 6/4 & 6/6	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM REVIEW	6/6

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****