

# Imperial Valley College

## Administration of Justice

### Course Syllabus

**COURSE NO.**  
AJ 102 (CRN 10577)

**COURSE TITLE**  
Concepts of Criminal Law

**INSTRUCTOR**

Edward Wells - Room 211

Office Room 209 Phone: (760) 355-6279

Office Hours: T/W/R/F 00:00 to 00:00pm  
[Edward.Wells@Imperial.edu](mailto:Edward.Wells@Imperial.edu)

**TEXTBOOKS**

Criminal Law 10<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Joel Samaha,

Thomson-Wadsworth – Publishers, Inc.

Recommended Additional Text  
California Penal Code 2011

**TERM**

Fall 2012

**UNITS**

3

**CLASS TIMES**

Friday 11:50pm - 3:00pm

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course dealing with the historical development of law and constitutional provisions; definitions and the classification of crime and their application to the system of administration of justice; legal research, study of case law, methodology, and concepts of law as a social force are presented. Crimes against persons, property, government, and organized crime are discussed.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. Explain the basics to the United States Constitution and the Amendments.
2. Identify the importance of the historical development of our laws and how they relate to the U.S. Constitution.
3. Recognize the definitions and classifications of crimes within the criminal justice system.
4. Understand what legal research is and how case law influences the practical applications of statute law.
5. Explain the basic concepts of the application of law and the methodology of law within our society and how they are used to control and coordinate our social interactions within society.
6. Demonstrate the ability to differentiate between various crime types: Felony, Misdemeanor, Infraction, and against Persons, Property, Government and Social Order.

## GRADING PROCEDURE:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Total Points:   | <b>500 points</b> |
| <b>Tests:</b> Five tests at 50 points each =                          | <b>250 points</b> |
| <b>Group Project and Presentation:</b> 10 minute Presentation =       | <b>50 points</b>  |
| <b>Term Paper:</b> (Topic Approved by Instructor) =                   | <b>50 Points</b>  |
| <b>Final Exam</b> =   | <b>100 Points</b> |
| <b>Class attendance/participation in discussions, or activities</b> = | <b>50 Points</b>  |
| <b>*Bonus (Approved by Instructor)</b> =                              | <b>50 Points</b>  |

**A = 450-500    B = 400-449    C = 350-399    D = 300-349    F = 0-299**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Assignments are due on the date stated on the syllabus. Late assignments are subject to reduction of points. Make every effort to turn in assignments on time or you may receive a zero for that assignment.

Failure to take an exam will result in a zero for that exam unless prior approval is given by the instructor. Exams will be thirty minutes long and will be given at the start of class. If you are late to class, you will not be given extra time to take the exam. Bring a No. 2 Pencil and Scantron form to class on exam days.

You must communicate to your instructor any problems that you are having with the course.

**ATTENDANCE:** One of the institutional learning outcomes at IVC is personal responsibility. You will be expected to demonstrate personal responsibility by attending class, showing up on time, and not leaving early. You will be allowed two absences from class before the drop deadline. Do not assume you will be dropped for non-attendance. Missing more than half a class session will count as a full absence. *(It remains your responsibility to drop yourself from all courses that you no longer attend, or you risk getting a failing grade on your transcript.)* Refer to page 15 of your Fall Class Schedule 2012 catalogue for “ATTENDANCE AND AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS”; you are RESPONSIBLE!

**ACADEMIC ETHICS:** Cheating is defined as copying answers from another student on an exam or assignment, allowing another student to copy answers from you, turning in work as your own that someone else did for you, working with another student on an assignment with the instructor’s express consent, or turning in a writing assignment that uses another’s words or ideas without crediting the source of the words or ideas.

**PLAGIRISM will not be tolerated!** If a student uses the words or ideas of another person without giving that person credit, the student is committing an act of plagiarism.

**CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!** Anyone caught cheating will get a zero for the assignment or exam and may be dropped from the class with the grade of **“F”**.

**PARTICIPATION:** Every student is expected to participate in class discussion each week. This includes punctuality, contributions, personal opinions, group efforts if assigned and discussion of issues relating to the current assignment of the class. Newspaper article discussions on how local crime impacts our community, state and federal levels.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** Any conduct that disrupts the learning process cannot be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such conduct will be asked to leave the classroom. Talking, whispering, loud yawning, and cell phones ringing during class are examples of disruptive behavior because such actions are disrespectful and distracting to the instructor and to other students. Respect your fellow students and instructors at all times. **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WHILE IN CLASS!**

**NOTICE:** Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP & S) Office as soon as possible. [SDP&S, Health Sciences Building 2100, Phone: (760) 355-6312]

**AJ 102 Concepts of Criminal Law**  
(Friday/Friday 11:50 to 3:00 pm)

**Class Schedule:**

|        |          |  |
|--------|----------|--|
| Friday | 08/24/12 | Introduction / History of Law and the Evolution of Social Order                |
| Friday | 08/31/12 | U.S. Constitution and Amendments   |
| Friday | 09/07/12 | U.S. Constitution and Amendments – <b>Test #1:</b>                             |
| Friday | 09/14/12 | Concept of Law as a Social Force   |
| Friday | 09/21/12 | Concept of Law as a Social Force – <b>Test #2:</b>                             |
| Friday | 09/28/12 | Criminal Justice System  |
| Friday | 10/05/12 | Criminal Justice System – <b>Test #3:</b>                                      |
| Friday | 10/12/12 | Crime Types: Property  |
| Friday | 10/19/12 | Crime Types: Property / Crime Types: Persons                                   |
| Friday | 10/26/12 | Crime Types: Persons   |
| Friday | 11/02/12 | Crime Types: Persons – <b>Test #4:</b>   |
| Friday | 11/09/12 | Crime Types: Government / Crime Types: Organized Crime <b>Last Day to Drop</b> |
| Friday | 11/16/12 | Crime Types: Terrorism – <b>Test #5:</b>                                       |
| Friday | 11/23/12 | <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>  |
| Friday | 10/11/12 | Research Methodology / Class Presentations                                     |
| Friday | 11/30/12 | Class Presentations  |
| Friday | 12/07/12 | <b>Final Exam. Term Paper Due.</b>   |