

**IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE  
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 102  
CONCEPTS OF CRIMINAL LAW  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course:** AJ 102 Concepts of Criminal Law

**Instructor:** Michael W. Capeci

**Number:** 20399

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**Term:** Spring 2014

**Class Times & Units:** TR 10:15 – 11:40 3 Units

**Textbooks\*:**

**Room:** 201

Criminal Law Eleventh Edition Joel Samaha

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course seeks to enable you to identify the historical sources of United States criminal laws; demonstrate knowledge of the United States Constitution and other key documents of the criminal justice system; analyze and explain criminal appellate cases; compare and contrast the classifications of criminal laws. Crimes against persons, property, and government will also be discussed. As the college catalogue suggests, a good command of English is important to success in this course because we will have to master the legal terminology which defines the legal system. Your success will be determined by testing and by an case study assignment as discussed below.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Identify the difference between criminal law and civil law. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)

Identify liability and how liability is determined. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5).

Demonstrate understanding of various crime groups to include: Crimes against people, crimes against property and crimes against the government (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Students will be able to:

1. Identify the historical sources of United States criminal laws.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the United States Constitution and other key documents of the criminal justice system.
3. Analyze and explain criminal appellate cases.
4. Compare and contrast the classifications of criminal law.

## GRADING PROCEDURE

Total Points: **500 points**  
**Tests:** 3 tests at 50 points each = **150** points  
**Attendance and Class Participation** = **50** points  
**Term Paper:** (Topic Approved by Instructor) = **50** Points  
**Final Exam** = **100** Points  
**Class attendance/participation in discussions, or activities** = **50** Points  
**\*Bonus (Approved by Instructor)** = **50** Points

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Assignments are due at the start of class. Late assignments will not be accepted, and the student will be given a zero for that assignment. Failure to take a quiz or exam will result in a zero for that quiz or exam unless prior approval is given by the instructor. You must communicate with your instructor any problems or difficulties that you are having with the course.*

**ATTENDANCE:** One goal of this course is to instill a work ethic needed to be a successful employee. Like having a job, students are expected to attend class, show up on time, and not leave early. Students will be allowed six absences from class. On the seventh absence, the student will be dropped from the class. Being late or leaving early will count as half an absence. Missing more than half a class session will count as a full absence. Students may be dropped from the class if they miss three class sessions in a row. However, it is the students responsibility to withdraw or drop accordingly as is not the responsibility of the instructor.

**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 without 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.

**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.

**DSP&S:** Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services Office. (Room 2117, Health Sciences Building; Phone: (760) 355-6312)

**NOTICE:** Copying the text book is an infringement on the U.S. Copywrite laws. It is illegal to copy a textbook and copied text books will not be accepted in this course.

**Especially in an Administration of Justice or Criminal Justice class.**

Tuesday 1/21	Introduction
Thursday 1/23	Review Chapter 1 Criminal Law & Criminal Punishment: An Overview
Tuesday 1/28	Continuation of Chapter 1 review
Thursday 1/30	Review Chapter 2 Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law
Tuesday 2/4	Continuation of Chapter 2 review
Thursday 2/6	Review Chapter 3 The General Principles of Criminal Liability: Actus Reus
Tuesday 2/11	Continuation of Chapter 3 review
Thursday 2/13	Test Chapters 1-3
Tuesday 2/18	Review Chapter 4 The General Principles of Criminal Liability: Mens Rea, Concurrence, Causation, and Ignorance and Mistake
Thursday 2/20	Continuation of Chapter 4 Review
Tuesday 2/25	Review Chapter 5 Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications
Thursday 2/27	Continuation of Chapter 5
Tuesday 3/4	Chapter 6 Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuse
Thursday 3/6	Test Chapters 4-6
Tuesday 3/11	Guest Speaker from the District Attorney's Office
Thursday 3/13	Review Chapter 7 Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability
Tuesday 3/18	Continuation of Chapter 7 Review
Thursday 3/20	Review Chapter 8 Inchoate Crimes: Attempt, Conspiracy, and Solicitation
Tuesday 3/25	Continuation of Chapter 8 review
Thursday 3/27	Mid Term- Term Paper Assignments
Tuesday 4/1	Review Chapter 9 Crimes Against Persons I: Murder and Manslaughter
Thursday 4/3	Mid Term Due Continuation of Chapter 9 review
Tuesday 4/8	Review Chapter 10 Crimes Against Persons II: Criminal Sexual Conduct, Bodily Injury, and Personal Restraint
Thursday 4/10	Continuation of Chapter 10 review
Tuesday 4/15	Test Chapters 8-10
Thursday 4/17	Review Chapter 11 Crimes Against Property
Tues 4/22 & Thurs 4/24	Continuation of Chapter 11 review
Tuesday 4/29	No Class Spring Recess
Thursday 5/1	Review Chapter 12 Crimes Against Public Order and Morals
Tuesday 5/6	Continuation of Chapter 12 Review Review Chapter 13 Crimes Against the State
Thursday 5/8	Continuation of Chapter 13 review Review for Final
Tuesday 5/13	FINAL Chapters 1-13