

**AJ 102 – Concepts of Criminal Law**  
**Spring 2014 Code: 20400**

“The only legal certainty is the certainty of legal change. What makes law, it’s study and practice, qualitatively unlike most other things that human beings do is that we can never be sure of anything.”

-Justice E. Peters, Conn. Supreme  
Court

“The life of the law has not been logic: it has been experience.”

-Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

“In keeping people straight, principle is not as powerful as a policeman.”

-Abel Hermant

**Course Information**

Class Hours and Location: MW 4:45-6:10p, Room 211

Instructor: Mr. Beckley; Office: 207; Phone: (760) 355-6324

Email: [jeff.beckley@imperial.edu](mailto:jeff.beckley@imperial.edu)

Office Hours: M: 9:15-10:15a, 4:15-4:45p; T: 4-4:45p; W: 9:30-10:15a; 4:15-4:45p; R: 4:15-4:45p

**Text and Required Course Materials**

Samaha, Criminal Law, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2014 (*Student Copy ISBN: 978-1-285-06191-7*) (*Student Resources: [www.cengagebrain.com](http://www.cengagebrain.com)*)

**Course Description:**

The course covers 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. (CSU, UC)

### **Course Objectives:**

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

1. Synthesize the historical development of the law and philosophy of the law.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the United States Constitution and constitutional legal issues through assigned writings and case studies.
3. Restate and explain basic legal definitions and concepts.
4. Formulate an appreciation for the value of case study and legal research as a means of interpreting court decisions in relation to written statute.
5. Demonstrate a basic knowledge and application of specific criminal violations.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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

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

### **Evaluation**

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Exam 1                              | 50         |
| Exam 2                              | 50         |
| Exam 3                              | 50         |
| Drop Exam                           | -50        |
| Final Exam                          | 80         |
| <u>Homework &amp; Case Analyses</u> | <u>80</u>  |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>260</b> |

### **Scale**

|             |
|-------------|
| A = 234-260 |
| B = 208-233 |
| C = 182-207 |
| D = 156-181 |

**Note on Exams:** Each student will need to provide a Scantron (100) and a # 2 pencil for each exam. In addition to the above materials, each student will need to provide a Blue Book for the Final Exam.

Once an exam has started, students may not leave the classroom until they have finished an exam. There will be no make-up exams.

**Note on Homework:** Homework must be turned in on the date assigned to receive full credit. Homework may be turned in one class period late for up to one-half credit. No homework will be accepted that is more than one class period late.

### **Attendance Policy:**

A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See IVC General Catalog for details.

Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. If a student is absent from class, it is the student's responsibility to obtain class notes for that day's lecture. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.

Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

**Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor.

**Food and Drink** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.

**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 with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.

Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

### **Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly 'cite a source', you must ask for help.

Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment ;(c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service

### **Disabled Students Programs and Services:**

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. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

### **Student Counseling and Health Services**

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see

<http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC

Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at

[http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762](http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762)

### **Information Literacy**

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

### **Tentative Course Outline**

Week 1—Introduction  
Week 2—Chapter 1, 2  
Week 3—Chapter 2  
Week 4—Chapter 3  
Week 5—Chapter 4  
Week 6—Exam 1, Chapter 5  
Week 7—Chapter 5  
Week 8—Chapter 6  
Week 9—Chapter 7, 8  
Week 10—Chapter 8, Exam 2  
Week 11—Chapter 9  
Week 12—Chapter 10  
Week 13—Chapter 11  
Week 14—Chapter 13  
Week 15—Exam 3, Review  
Week 16—Final Exam

### **Final Note**

The above schedule and procedures are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.