

AJ 102 – Concepts of Criminal Law
CRN#: 20681

“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

Basic Course Information

Semester: Spring 2015

Course Title & Number: AJ 102: Concepts of Criminal Law

CRN Number: 20681

Class Hours and Location: Online

Class Dates: February 17 – June 12, 2015

Units: 3

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

Email: jeff.beckley@imperial.edu

Office Hours: M: 9:15-10:15a; T: 6:00-6:30p; W: 9:45-10:15a, 6:00-6:30p; R: 6:00-6:30p

Online Office Hour: Sunday 6:00-7:00pm

Office Contact if student will be out or if an emergency: Frances Arce-Gomez, Department Secretary, 760-355-6361

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)

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)

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.

Text and Required Course Materials

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

All other course materials can be accessed through the course website on Blackboard.

Course Format

Weekly Learning Units: This class is divided into 14 Weekly Learning Units. Each unit contains various activities and tasks. **All of the units are accessible from the Course Menu located on the left side of any course page under "Weekly Units."** Each unit lasts approximately one week. You should start each unit by reading the

material in the “Weekly Learning Unit” link for the week. This material is a summary of the weekly activities and directs you to the various tasks and activities for the week. (Please note that PowerPoint presentations for each chapter of the *Samaha* text are available to you under the “PowerPoints” link on the course menu. These presentations are never required reading in this course, but are made available to you for your convenience.)

On the due date of each unit, the projects, discussions, quizzes, and/or any other materials required in that module will close and cease to be accessible, so don't get behind. If appropriate, you will still be able to see the units throughout the semester for review. This schedule is necessary to keep you on track in the course. Students who get behind in their coursework often end up failing an online course as a result.

Projects: Each weekly learning unit has a project for you to complete. The projects are introduced in the weekly learning units and the specific assignment for each project can be **accessed through the “Projects” link on the Course Menu located on the left side of any course page.** The projects are based on the material covered during the week. Most projects require preparation activities before the project can be completed, so it is highly recommended that you begin the project as early as possible in the week. **Projects are typically worth 30 points. However, please note that the projects in the first two weekly learning units are worth 20 points.** **Grading rubrics are included with each project. Projects are due each week by Sunday night at 11:00pm. Projects must be submitted by the due date as no late work is accepted in this course.**

Discussions: Each weekly learning unit has a discussion activity for you to participate in with both an original posting to the discussion and responses to postings by other students. The discussions are introduced in the weekly learning units and the specific discussion activity for each week can be **accessed through the “Forums” link on the Course Menu located on the left side of any course page.** The discussions are based on the material covered during the week. The **original discussion post** must be at least ten sentences long and be based on the reading material, and any other appropriate resources, for the week. **Discussion responses** should be at least

five sentences long and contain meaningful and relevant comments based on the original post to which you are responding. Discussion means interacting with your fellow students, so it is important that you read all the other student responses and respond to your fellow students with meaningful comments. Don't just respond by saying "I agree with you." If you agree or disagree, you must have a reason why. You are required to post responses to postings by at least at least two other students in each weekly discussion. I will be monitoring each discussion, reading each discussion post and will participate when I feel it is appropriate to do so. However, I want you to feel empowered to really engage in a conversation with your fellow students and not be afraid that your instructor will be critiquing everything you write. Have fun with this. However, if any student uses inappropriate language or is disrespectful to another student, that student will lose points and need to have a personal conversation with the instructor. Remember, this is a college class and the discussion should be academic in nature, so don't get off topic or you will also lose points. **Discussions are worth twenty points and grading rubrics are included with each discussion activity. Original discussion posts are typically due each week by Thursday at 11:00pm and discussion replies are typically due each week by Friday at 11:00pm. However, please note that both original posts and replies to the Introductory Discussion Activity are due Sunday night at 11:00pm. All discussion postings must be submitted by the due date as no late work is accepted in this course.**

Obviously you will be writing throughout this class, in both the projects and in the discussions. That is the nature of an online course. Remember, this is a college class and you should take care to present college-level work. This includes checking your spelling and grammar. (By the way, spell check alone is not enough. You must also proofread because spell check does not and cannot catch many different types of errors.) If your writings contain a lot of grammar and spelling mistakes, points will be deducted.

Quizzes: Along with the readings, projects and discussion activities, you are required to take a Quiz for each module (except module 1). The quizzes are introduced in the weekly learning units and the specific quiz for each week can be accessed through the "Tests &

Quizzes” link on the Course Menu located on the left side of any course page. The quizzes are based on the material covered during the week. **Each quiz consists of ten randomly selected multiple-choice questions and is worth ten points. Each quiz may be taken up to three times and only the highest score will be counted. There is 30-minute time limit for the quizzes. Quizzes are due each week by Sunday at 11:00pm. The quiz must be submitted before the posted deadline as no late work is accepted in this course.**

Exams: There will be two exams in this course: a Mid-term Exam and a Final Exam. Each exam is worth 80 points and will consist of forty multiple-choice questions worth two points each. The exams will be taken online and you will have 60 minutes to complete the exams. You will have one attempt to take each exam. The Mid-term will be held during Week 10 of the course and will cover Chapters 1-8 in the *Samaha* text and Weekly Learning Units 2-9. The Final Exam will be held during Finals week and will cover Chapters 9-13 and Weekly Learning Units 10-14. Basically, the Mid-term Exam covers the general part of the criminal law, while the Final Exam covers the special part of the criminal law. **There are no make-up exams and exams must be completed by the due date as no late work is accepted in this course.**

Evaluation and Grading

There are 14 Weekly Learning Units in this course. There are 40 points available in Week 1, 50 points available in Week 2, and 60 points available in Weeks 3-14. That is a total of 810 points from the units. There will also be 2 exams worth 80 points each for a total of 160 points. The grand point total for the course is 970.

Course Grade: The course grade is based on total points accumulated during the semester. There is a total of 970 points available. Grades are determined by dividing the total points you earn by the total points available (970) to get your percentage. I will use the Grade Center in Blackboard to keep track of grades but it is always a good idea to keep your own records to compare with your instructor's records. Final grade is based on the following percentages:

90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 60% = F

Attendance Policy:

A student who fails to 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. Students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.

(For more information, please read the “Welcome Letter” and the “Important Course Policies” document located in the “Start Here” link on the course website on Blackboard. Access the document by clicking on the “Start Here” link on the left side of a page while on the website.)

Online Classroom “Netiquette”

What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word.

Netiquette rules to remember: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!)].

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 should 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 [IVC General 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.

Additional Help

[Blackboard Support Center](#): The IVC Blackboard Support Center is designed to provide a variety of Blackboard support channels, all of which are available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

[Library Services](#): The IVC Library has many resources. In addition to books, you can access tutors in the learning center, reserve study rooms for small groups, and access a wealth of resources online.

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. Please contact DSP&S 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. 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](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access helpful “How-To” Library tutorials by accessing the [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) online.

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1—Introduction

Week 2—Chapter 1

Week 3—Chapter 2

Week 4—Chapter 3

Week 5—Chapter 4

Week 6—Chapter 5

Week 7—Chapter 6

Week 8—Chapter 7

Week 9—Chapter 8

Week 10—Mid-term Exam

Week 11—Chapter 9

Week 12—Chapter 10

Week 13—Chapter 11

Week 14—Chapter 12

Week 15—Chapter 13

Week 16—Final Exam

Final Note

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