



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2025	Instructor Name:	Beckley
Course Title & #:	AJ 102: Concepts of Criminal Law	Email:	jeff.beckley@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20359	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Canvas	Office #:	808
Class Dates:	Feb 10 – Jun 7	Office Hours:	On Campus: M: 8:40-9:40a; T: 3:50-4:20p; W: 9:10-9:40a; R: 3:20-4:20p; Online: W: 3-4p
Class Days:	Online	Office Phone #:	760-355-6324
Class Times:	Online	Emergency Contact:	Tisha Nelson, 760-355-6161
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	Online

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. (C-ID: AJ 120) (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:

Updated 6/2023

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

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.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Fundamentals of Criminal Law: Caught in the Act, 1st Edition, published June 2022 by Sage Publications, Inc., Author: Daniel E. Hall, Hard Copy ISBN: 9781071811733 (Note: as usual, there are several other formats with other ISBN numbers for this book. Any are acceptable.)

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

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

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 on Canvas from the Course home page and also on the Course Menu, located on the left side of any course page, under the "Modules" link.** The Weekly Units typically open on Fridays at 12am, are open for approximately 10 days, and close on Sundays at 11pm, when the last assignments for the week are due. ***(Please note that the Introduction Weekly Learning Unit will open at 12am, Monday, February 10, and close at 11pm on Sunday, February 16.)*** Please 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.

On the due date(s) for each unit, the projects, discussions, and/or any other assignments or materials required in that module will close and cease to be accessible, so don't get behind. No make-up or late assignments are accepted in this course. If appropriate, you will still be able to see the units throughout the semester for review. This schedule is necessary to keep us on track in the course. Students who get behind in their coursework often end up failing or dropping an online course as a result.

Projects

Each weekly learning unit has a project to complete. The projects are introduced in the weekly learning units and the specific assignment for each project can be accessed in the weekly units. Projects can also be found under the "Assignments" link on the Course Menu. 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 recommended that you begin the project as early as possible in the week. **The project in the Introduction Weekly Learning Unit is worth 20 points. All other Projects are worth 30 points. Grading rubrics are included with each project. Projects are typically due each week by 11pm on Sunday. (Please note that the Introductory Project is due by 11pm, Sunday, February 16. Please see the Introduction Weekly Learning Unit for details.)** 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 students to participate in with **both** an **original posting** to the discussion prompt, **and** at least **two responses** (or replies) to postings by other students. The discussions are introduced in the weekly learning units and the specific discussion prompt can be found in the weekly units. Discussions can also be found under both the “Discussions” link, and the “Assignments” 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*** must 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. Please don't just respond by saying "I agree with you." If you agree or disagree, you must have a reason why, and explain that reason in your response. You are required to post responses to postings by 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 (except for the Introduction Discussion) and grading rubrics are included with each discussion activity.

Original discussion posts are typically due each week by 11pm on Thursday, and discussion replies are typically due each week by 11pm on Saturday. (However, please note that both the original posts, and the replies, to the Introduction Discussion Activity are due by 11pm, Sunday, February 16. Please see the Introduction Weekly Learning Unit for details.) All



discussion posts must be submitted by the due dates 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 several grammar and/or spelling mistakes, points may be deducted.

Exams

There will be **two exams in this course: a Mid-term Exam, and a Final Exam.** The Exams can be accessed from the Course home page and also under the “Quizzes” link on the left side of the Course Menu. Each exam is worth 80 points and will consist of forty multiple-choice questions worth two points each. Like all course activities, the exams will be held online. You will have two attempts, 60 minutes per attempt, to take each exam. The Mid-term will be held during Week 9 of the course; it will cover Chapters 1 - 6 in the *Hall* text, and Weekly Learning Units 1 – 6 (including both parts of Chapter 3). The Final Exam will be held during Finals week; it will cover Chapters 7 – 12 in the *Hall* text, and Weekly Learning Units 7 - 12. 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. Exams must be completed by the due date as no late work is accepted in this course.**

There is an Introductory Quiz, worth 5 points, in the Introduction Weekly Learning Unit. ***This Quiz is due by 11pm, Sunday, February 16.***

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

There are 14 Weekly Learning Units in this course. There is an Introduction Weekly Learning Unit, and one Weekly Learning Unit for each Chapter in the *Hall* text, except for Chapter 3,



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which has 2 Weekly Learning Units associated with it. There are 40 points available in the Introduction Weekly Unit, and 50 points available in each of the 13 Chapter Weekly Learning Units. That is a total of 690 points from the units. There will also be 2 exams worth 80 points each for a total of 160 points. Thus, the total points available for the course is 850.

Course Grade: Course grades are based on total points accumulated during the semester.

Grades are determined by dividing the total points you earn by the total points available (850) to get your percentage. I will use the “Grades” link in Canvas 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 grades will be based on the following percentages:

90-100% = A (765-850 points)

80-89% = B (680-764 points)

70-79% = C (595-679 points)

60-69% = D (510-594 points)

below 60% = F (509 points and fewer)

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course

Updated 6/2023



complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

IVC 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. **The activities for the Introductory Week, including the Introduction Discussion, the Introductory Project, and the Introductory Quiz are all due by 11pm, Sunday, August 18. Following the IVC attendance policy, any student failing to complete at least one of these activities on time will be dropped from the course.**

Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. After the first week's drops for nonattendance and nonparticipation, 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. 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. However, as noted above, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to drop a class.

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

What does it mean to "attend" an online class?

Updated 6/2023



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Attendance is critical to student success and for IVC to use federal aid funds. Acceptable indications of attendance are:

- Student submission of an academic assignment
- Student submission of an exam
- Student participation in an instructor-led Zoom conference
- Documented student interaction with class postings, such as an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction via modules
- A posting by the student showing the student's participation in an assignment created by the instructor
- A posting by the student in a discussion forum showing the student's participation in an online discussion about academic matters.
- An email from the student or other documentation showing that the student has initiated contact with a faculty member to ask a question about an academic subject studied in the course.

Logging onto Canvas alone is NOT adequate to demonstrate academic attendance by the student.

Other Course Information

Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.

Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (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

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting 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 "cite a source" correctly, 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 that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing 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 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) using a commercial term paper service.

How do I show academic honesty and integrity in an online "classroom"?

- **KEEP YOUR PASSWORDS CONFIDENTIAL.**
 - You have a unique password to access online software like Canvas. Never allow someone else to log-in to your account.
- **COMPLETE YOUR OWN COURSEWORK.**
 - When you register for an online class and log-in to Canvas, you do so with the understanding that you will produce your own work, take your own exams, and will do so without the assistance of others (unless directed by the instructor).

Examples of Academic Dishonesty that can occur in an online environment may include:

- Copying from others on a quiz, test, examination, or assignment;

- Allowing someone else to copy your answers on a quiz, test, exam, or assignment;
- Having someone else take an exam or quiz for you;
- Conferring with others during a test or quiz (if the instructor didn't explicitly say it was a group project, then he/she expects you to do the work without conferring with others);
- Buying or using a term paper or research paper from an internet source or other company or taking any work of another, even with permission, and presenting the work as your own;
- Excessive revising or editing by others that substantially alters your final work;
- Sharing information that allows other students an advantage on an exam (such as telling a peer what to expect on a make-up exam or prepping a student for a test in another section of the same class);
- Taking and using the words, work, or ideas of others and presenting any of these as your own work is plagiarism. This applies to all work generated by another, whether it be oral, written, or artistic work. Plagiarism may either be deliberate or unintentional.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

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.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

WEEK

CHAPTER



Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	Chapter 1
Week 3	Chapter 2
Week 4	Chapter 3A, <i>Actus Reus</i>
Week 5	Chapter 3B, <i>Mens Rea</i>
Week 6	Chapter 4
Week 7	Chapter 5
Week 8	Chapter 6
Week 9	Mid-Term Exam
Week 10	Chapter 7
Week 11	Chapter 8
Week 12	Chapter 9
Week 13	Chapter 10
Week 14	Chapter 11
Week 15	Chapter 12
Week 16	Final Exam

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