



AJ 102: Concepts of Criminal Law

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	George Chavarria
Course Title & #:	AJ 102: Concepts of Criminal Law	Email:	george.chavarria@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10349	Office #:	760-355-6280
Classroom:	301	Office Hours:	FACE TO FACE ROOM 3212: Tuesday and Thursday 12:45 to 1:00 PM Thursday 10:20 to 11:20 AM ONLINE: Monday 11:30 to 01:00 PM
Class Dates:	08/11/2025 – 12/06/2025	Emergency Contact:	Rhonda Ruiz: 760-355-6280
Class Days:	Monday/Wednesday	Units:	3.0
Class Times:	09: 40 AM – 11:05 AM	Class Format:	Face-to-Face (On Campus)

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:

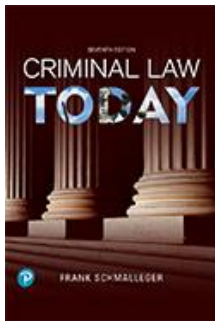
1. Identify the difference between criminal law and civil law.
2. Identify liability and how liability is determined.
3. Demonstrate understanding of various crime groups to include: Crimes against People, Crimes against Property, and Crimes against the Government.

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



Criminal Law Today

Edition: 7th
 ISBN: 9780137641376 (Paperback)
 Author: Schmalleger
 Publisher: Pearson Education
 Copyright Year: 2021

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Instructional Methods: Audio Visual, Computer-Assisted Instruction, Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activity, Lecture.

Out of Class Assignments: Students may research case studies as part of extra-credit assignments.

Reading and Writing: Students will be required to read course material prior to class and participate in discussions during class. Students will be required to complete research paper on case study or similar area within criminology field.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Assignment Descriptors	Points
Quizzes	120
Mid-term	100
Final	100
Research Paper	80
Total	400

Grade	Points Required
A	360-400 points
B	320-359 points
C	280-319 points
D	240-279 points
F	0-239 points

Extra Credit: Up to 30 points in extra credit can be earned for an online assignment which will be announced at a later time. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED AND THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP ON QUIZZES OR EXAMS.**

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.

Course Policies

Attendance: 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 [General Catalog](#) for details.

- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absence exceeds 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.

Online Netiquette: "Netiquette" refers to the rules of behaving well online. It can be more difficult to discern meaning in written text than in spoken conversation, so pay particular attention to your words. Keep your language clear and concise; ensure posts are on-topic; use correct spelling, grammar, and capitalization (all caps = yelling); and contribute productively to conversations.

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 1 – 08/11-13/25	Syllabus Review and Class Introduction
Week 2 – 08/18-20/25	Ch1: The Nature and History of Criminal Law
Week 3 – 08/25-27/25	Ch2: Criminal Liability and the Essence of Crime/ Quiz #1 (Chapters 1 & 2)
Week 4 – 09/01-03/25	MONDAY: CAMPUS CLOSED: Labor Day WEDNESDAY: Ch3: Expanding the Concept of Crime/ Quiz #2
Week 5 – 09/08-10/25	Ch4: Extending Criminal Liability/Inchoate Offenses and Parties to Crime/ Quiz #3
Week 6 – 09/15-17/25	Ch5: Justifications for Defenses/ Quiz #4
Week 7 – 09/22-24/25	Ch6: Defenses: Excuses and Insanity/ Quiz #5
Week 8 – 09/29-10/01	Ch7: Crimes against Persons: Homicide/ Quiz #6
Week 9 – 10/06-08/25	Ch8: Crimes against Persons: Assault, Sex Offenses, and Other Crimes/ Quiz #7
Week 10 – 10/13-15/25	Midterm on Chapters 1-8
Week 11 – 10/20-22/25	Ch9: Property and Computer Crimes/ Quiz # 8
Week 12 – 10/27-29/01	Ch10: Offenses Against Public Order and the Administration of Justice / Quiz #9 *Research Papers Due*

Week 13 – 11/03-05/25	Ch11: Offenses against Public Morality/ Quiz #10 *Presentations Scheduled for Next Week*
Week 14 – 11/10-12/25	MONDAY: CAMPUS CLOSED: Veterans Day WEDNESDAY: Ch12: Terrorism and Human Trafficking / Quiz #11 *Student Presentations*
Week 15 – 11/17-19/25	Ch13: Victims and the Law Ch14: Punishment and Sentencing / Quiz#12
Week 16 – 11/24-29/25	CAMPUS CLOSED: Thanksgiving
Week 17 – 12/01-03/25	Review and Final Exam on Chapters 9-14

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