

## AJ 102: Concepts of Criminal Law

### Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Michael Crankshaw
Course Title & #:	AJ 102: Concepts of Criminal Law	Email:	michael.crankshaw@imperial.edu
CRN #:	11502	Office #:	760-355-6280
Classroom:	3211	Office Hours:	M,W 1:00 – 2:30 PM Rm 3211
Class Dates:	08/11/2025 – 12/06/2025	Emergency Contact:	Rhonda Ruiz: 760-355-6280
Days:	Tuesday - assignments	Units:	3.0
Time:	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Class Format:	Online

### Course Description

*The course covers the historical development of law and constitutional provision, definitions and the classification of crime, the application of crimes to the system of administration of justice, legal research, the study of case law, methodology, and concepts of law as a social force is presented. Crimes against persons, property, government, and organized crime are discussed. (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:

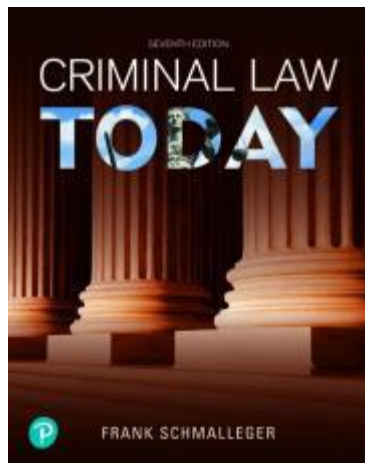
- Identify the difference between criminal and civil law (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4).
- Identify liability and how liability is determined. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5).
- Demonstrate understanding of various crime groups: Crimes against People, Crimes against Property, and Crimes against the Government. (ILO1, ILO2,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

### Course Objectives

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

- Synthesize the historical development and philosophy of the law.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the United States Constitution and Constitutional legal issues through assigned writings and case studies.
- Restate and explain basic legal definitions and concepts.
- Formulate an appreciation of the value of case studies and legal research to interpret court decisions concerning written statutes.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge and application of specific criminal violations.

## Textbooks & Other Resources or Links



### **Criminal Law Today**

Edition: 7th  
ISBN: 9780135970386 (Paperback)  
ISBN: 9780135729731 (epub)  
Author: Frank Schmalleger  
Publisher: Pearson  
Formats: Paperback  
Copyright Year: 2022

## Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

### Overview:

- This course consists of (1) day per week (every Tuesday) - 17 weeks.
- Instructional Methods: Audio Visual, Computer Assisted Instruction, Online Demonstrations, Discussions, Classwork Activities, Individual Assistance, Simulation/Case Study.

### Classroom Instruction:

- PowerPoint presentations corresponding to each text chapter will be delivered during class sessions.
  - Note: These presentations are the backbone of this course. Highly recommend note taking be completed from each lesson plan presentation / power point presentation.

### Assignment Completion:

- Students are encouraged to complete assignments, have online discussions, quizzes, and other module-related materials. A due date can be found in this syllabus's - Anticipated Schedule/Calendar section.
- Be aware: All assignment components will be accessible on Canvas. It is crucial to stay on schedule to avoid falling behind.

## Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

### Classwork assignments:

There will be 14 instructor-led power point presentations/10-chapter worksheets + 1- example / 4 opinion papers due.

### Testing:

3 quizzes, and a final exam during the course.

Assignments can also be found on the Course Menu under the “Assignments” link (CANVAS). The assignments are based on the material covered during each week. Most assignments can be completed based on the information provided in the power points, so it is highly recommended that you begin the effort as early as possible in the week.

Assignments are will be due at the beginning of each class – every Tuesday by 10:00AM). Assignments not submitted by the due date will have a 10% deduction for each day late. Assignments WILL NOT be accepted after 6 days late or the last day of this course.

**Writing Expectations:** In this class, writing is a significant component. As a college-level course, all submitted work is expected to reflect a high standard of academic quality. This means:

- Attention to Spelling and Grammar:
  - Ensure that your writing is free from spelling and grammatical errors.
  - While spell-check tools are helpful, they are not infallible. Therefore, it's essential to proofread your work manually. Spell check may not identify specific types of mistakes, such as correctly spelled but incorrectly used words.
- Consequence of Errors:
  - Be aware that submissions with numerous grammar and spelling mistakes will result in points being deducted.
  - Remember, the quality of your writing reflects not only your understanding of the content, but also your commitment to academic excellence.

Assignment Descriptors	Points
Classwork assignments (10)	100
Homework papers (4)	100
Quizzes	150
Final	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

Grade	Points Required
<b>A</b>	450-500 points
<b>B</b>	400-449 points
<b>C</b>	350-399 points
<b>D</b>	300-349 points
<b>F</b>	0-299 points

**Extra Credit:** None

## 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

**IVC Class Attendance-Requirements and Consequences (Title 5 Sections 55024 and 58004/ IVC AP5075)**

- **Regular Attendance Expected:** All students are expected to attend and participate classes regularly.
- **Attendance:** If a student fails to check in through canvas a class's first session, the instructor must drop them from the class roster. To check in, you must send an email through the course canvas – indicating that you received and understood that week's assignment(s)
- **Excessive Unexcused Absences:** A student may be dropped from the class if their total unexcused absences exceed 25% or more of the overall classes or four class sessions. This is in addition to the policy of dropping students after the first week for nonattendance and for having six instances of non-participation.
- **Re-Admission Process:** To rejoin the class after being dropped, the student must follow the standard procedure for adding a class, as outlined in the General Catalog.
- **Student's Responsibility to Withdraw:** It's important to note that while an instructor may drop a student for excessive absences, the responsibility to withdraw from a class officially lies with the student.
- **Excused Absences:**
  - **College Representation:** Absences from participation in officially approved college events (like conferences, contests, or field trips) will be considered excused.

For more detailed information, please refer to the General Catalog. Remember, regular attendance is crucial for success in this course.

#### **Classroom Etiquette (Education Code Sections 66300 and 66301; ACCJC Accreditation Standards I.C.8 and 10)**

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- **Food and Drinks** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- **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 coursework.
- **Disciplinary procedures** will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, only students in the class may attend; children are not allowed.

#### **Academic Honesty Policy for College Students (IVC AP 5500; 5520, 3720)**

Academic honesty is essential for the advancement of knowledge. It requires respect for the intellectual property of others, both by students and instructors.

- **Forms of Academic Dishonesty:** This policy includes, but is not limited to, the following forms of dishonest behavior:
  - **Plagiarism:**
    - Presenting someone else's writing or ideas as your own without proper citation.
    - Understand and avoid plagiarism. If unsure about how to cite sources correctly, seek assistance.

- Cheating:
  - Any form of deceit or dishonesty in academic assignments. This includes using or trying to use unauthorized materials, assistance, or helping others.
- Consequences: Being caught cheating or plagiarizing will result in a zero (0) on the exam or assignment. The incident may also be reported to the VP of Academic Instruction, leading to the possibility of expulsion.
- Repeated Offenses: Multiple instances of cheating may lead to failing the course and/or further disciplinary action.
- Examples of Cheating:
  - Plagiarism.
  - Copying from others during exams or assignments.
  - Sharing test information during an exam.
  - Allowing others to complete your assignments.
  - Using commercial services for assignments.

---

## 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.

### DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability needing educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is in Building DSPS, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you need to be evaluated for educational accommodation.

### STUDENT COUNSELING AND HEALTH SERVICES

The pre-paid Student Health Fee provides Students with counseling and health services.

**Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and El Centro Regional Center provide essential health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC Student Health Center at 760-355-6310 in Room 2109 for more information.

**Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

### STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process of law. Please refer to the IVC General Catalog for more information regarding student rights and responsibilities.

### INFORMATION LITERACY

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC Library Department provides numerous Information Literacy Tutorials to assist students in this

endeavor.

### Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Week 1 –	Syllabus Review and Class directions and open class discussion (Q&A)
Week 2 –	Ch1: The Nature and History of Criminal Law / <b>Opinion Paper (25 pts)</b>
Week 3 –	Ch2: Criminal Liability and the Essence of Crime / <b>Chapter Worksheet #1 (10pts)</b>
Week 4 –	Ch3: Expanding the Concepts of Crime / <b>Chapter Worksheet #2 (10pts) / Opinion Paper (25 pts)</b>
Week 5 –	Ch4: Extending Criminal Liability: Inchoate Off. and Parties to Crime / <b>Chapter Worksheet #3 (10pts)</b>
Week 6 –	Ch5: Justifications as Defenses / <b>Review of associated power points / Quiz #1 (Chapters 1-5) (50 pts)</b>
Week 7 –	Ch6: Defenses: Excuses and Insanity / <b>Chapter Worksheet #4 (10pts)</b>
Week 8 –	Ch7: Crimes against Persons: Homicide / <b>Chapter Worksheet #5 (10pts) / Opinion Paper (25 pts)</b>
Week 9 –	Ch8: Crimes against Persons: Assault, Sex Crimes, and Other Crimes / <b>Chapter Worksheet #6 (10pts)</b>
Week 10 –	Ch9: Property and Computer Crimes / <b>Chapter Worksheet #7 (10pts)</b>
Week 11 –	Ch10: Offenses against Public Order: and the Admin. of Justice / <b>Review of associated power points Quiz #2 ( Chapters 6 – 10) (50 pts)</b>
Week 12 –	Ch11: Offenses against Public Morality / <b>Chapter Worksheet #8 (10pts) / Opinion Paper (25 pts)</b>
Week 13 –	Ch12: Terrorism and Human Trafficking/ <b>Chapter Worksheet #9 (10pts)</b>
Week 14 –	Ch13: Victims and the Law / <b>Chapter Worksheet #10 (10pts)</b>
Week 15 –	Ch14: Punishment and Sentencing / <b>Review of associated power points /Quiz #3 (Chapters 11 – 14) (50 pts)</b>
Week 16 –	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>
Week 17 –	<b>Review study guides (Quizzes) – open class discussion period / Final Exam on Chapters 1-14 (150 pts)</b>

\*\*\*Class Schedule Subject to change without prior notice\*\*\*