



Criminal Law
CJS 210 – 3 Credits

Semester:
Day(s):
Time(s):
Classroom:
Instructor:
Office Hours:
Office Location:
Phone Number:
Email:

INSERT
Professional
Headshot Here

Prerequisite/Co-Requisites: None

Course Description

This course provides students with an introduction to the theory, history, and purposes of statutory law. Topics will include major elements of statutory law, and common law offenses. The federal and state penal code will also be discussed



Course Goal

Upon completion of this class, students should be able to demonstrate the understanding of: the theory and history of statutory laws, elements of statutory law, and elements of common law



Required Text

Samaha, J. (2017). Criminal Law (12th ed.). Cengage Learning
ISBN: 978-1-305-57738-1

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Methods

<u>Learning Outcomes:</u>	<u>Assessment Methods:</u>
At the end of this course students will be able to:	As measured by:
1. Discuss the history and purpose of statutory laws.	Exams
2. Identify common law offenses.	Paper/Presentation
3. Identify major elements of statutory law.	Homework Assignments
4. Discuss the importance of federal and state penal code.	Class participation & discussion



Grading Policy

Your performance in this course is assessed using multiple, varied methods in the areas listed below and based on the expectations as described in the syllabus and outlined in assessment scoring guides or rubrics. If you do not understand the expectations, it is your responsibility to ask the instructor questions.

Class Participation	10%
Midterm	20%
Homework Assignments	20%
Research Paper/Presentation	30%
Final Exam	20%
Total:	100%



Coursework Expectations

This section of the syllabus contains a listing with brief descriptions of the assessment methods for this course. They are designed to align with the student-learning outcomes and provide you with varied ways to demonstrate mastery of the course content. ***Additional instructions and related scoring guides or rubrics are posted to Blackboard.***

Blackboard



Class Participation/Attendance (10%): Course expectations related to class participation focus on intrapersonal, interpersonal, and cognitive competencies that are important to employers and a successful career. In this course, you will be assessed based on the following criteria: (a) acting ethically and with integrity, (b) demonstrating foundational knowledge pertaining to the week's topic, (c) contributing to a collaborative learning environment (e.g., sharing knowledge or resources with other learners), (d) advancing the level and depth of learning (e.g., commenting or questioning in ways that encourage critical thinking or deeper analysis of a topic).

Regardless of the circumstances surrounding an absence, students are required to get in touch with the instructor by email or office phone. If you miss class for any reason, you are still required to meet all deadlines as detailed in

the syllabus. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor to find out what you missed.

All fields of criminal justice require high degrees of social confidence and verbal skills. In order for students to develop these skills, class participation is essential and expected. Students should come to class prepared to contribute to class discussions and in doing so, be respectful during class meetings. Students may be asked to discuss the text or any work assigned by the instructor. To participate effectively, students must read assigned chapters and be prepared for class. Do not be concerned or embarrassed about making mistakes, as we often learn from our mistakes.



Test (40%): Mid Term/Final Exam (Cumulative) (40%):

There will be two tests held during this course. The format of these tests will be short answer, fill in the blank, multiple choice and/or true/false. The Mid Term test will be given on DATE. The Final Exam will be given on DATE. These dates are subject to change based on a variety of reasons such as class cancellations or course progression. The tests cover work provided in the textbook and from class lectures. Each test is worth 20% each for a total of 40% of your total grade in this course.

There are no make-up exams in this course. In rare and exceptional circumstances – a car accident, serious illness/hospitalization, family crisis, etc., the instructor will consider a request for a make-up exam. The instructor requires written verification of the extenuating circumstance before deciding on a make-up exam. Make-up exams will only be allowed for serious, documented extenuating circumstances. On exam days, plan for unforeseen circumstances.



Homework Assignments (20%): Homework Assignments are due prior to the beginning of the class on the due date assigned. The homework assignments will consist of short answer, multiple choice, or true/false based on the text. The assignments will be worth a total worth of 20% of the final grade in this course. Late homework assignments will not be accepted.



Research paper/Presentation (30%) Each student will complete a minimum of a four-page research paper on a topic discussed in class, with the approval of the instructor. **See expectations of written work.** Your paper will be uploaded into the Blackboard prior to the start of class. Students will then present their papers to the class. These presentations will be short in length, and will address their topic, their findings and conclusions. The paper and presentation will account for 30% of your final grade in this course.

Research papers and presentations are due on assigned dates, and no make-ups will be granted. Late research papers will not be accepted.

Course Outline / Class Schedule*

Week / Date(s)	Topic(s) To be Covered Each Week	Assignments, Quizzes, and Readings to be Completed <i>Before</i> Each Week's First-Class Meeting	In-Class Assignments, Activities, and Writers' Workshops to be Covered Each Week
	Introduction / Criminal Law Overview	•	•
	Criminal Law and Punishment in U.S. Society: An Overview	• Chapter 1	• Homework
	Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law	• Chapter 2	•
	The Criminal Act: The First Principle of Criminal Liability	• Chapter 3	• Homework
	The General Principles of Criminal Liability: Mens Rea, Concurrence, Ignorance, and Mistake	• Chapter 4	•
	Defenses to Criminal Liability I: Justifications	• Chapter 5	• Homework
	Defenses to Criminal Liability II: Excuses	• Chapter 6	• Mid Term Exam
	Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability	• Chapter 7	•
	Inchoate Crimes	• Chapter 8	• Homework/Pick Topic
	Crimes Against Persons I: Murder and Manslaughter	• Chapter 9	•
	Crimes Against Persons II: Sex Offenses, Bodily Injury and Personal Restraint	• Chapter 10	•
	Crimes Against Property	• Chapter 11	•
	Presentations and Crimes Against Public Order and Morals	• Chapter 12	• Papers Due
	Presentations and Crimes Against the State	• Chapter 13	•
	Final Exam	• Final Exam	• Final Exam

**This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*



Class Policies

We will create a positive learning environment in this course. There is an expectation of respect and professionalism. The professional conduct policy includes, but is not limited to:



Blackboard: Blackboard contains class materials such as PowerPoints, worksheets, media, and links for submitting assignments. Be sure to **check Blackboard often** to stay up to date on announcements, new course materials, and other important information. ***All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard.***



Late Assignments: Deadlines are an integral part of all professional careers. You must manage your time and complete all coursework thoroughly and on time (e.g., quizzes, exams, papers, projects, discussion board posts). Per department policy, any work submitted to the instructor after the due date will result in a zero for that particular assignment. Late assignments or make-up exams are not permitted except when there are documented extenuating circumstances (i.e., medical and family emergencies), and the instructor has been notified 24 hours before or after the deadline. In circumstances in which the instructor permits a make-up assignments or exams, the format of the task is at the discretion of the instructor.



Course Decorum: Course Decorum: We will create a positive learning environment in this course. There is an expectation of respect and professionalism. The professional conduct policy includes, but is not limited to:

1. Planning outside activities to avoid conflicts with the activities outlined in the syllabus.
2. Being an attentive, engaged, and active participant in class activities and discussions.
3. Demonstrating respect for instructors, peers, and self and treating others in a professional manner.
4. Abiding by Goodwin's academic integrity policies.
5. Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a F.



Communication and E-mail: Students are expected to communicate in a professional manner (i.e., verbal, written, and electronic). I will send course updates and announcements through Blackboard so please **check your Goodwin e-mail account regularly.**



APA Style: This course follows APA style format for all written assignments. All written assignments must be produced using software that is compatible with Blackboard. Assessment of written assignments will include use of APA format, writing, grammar, quotations, and references. Academic Writer is also an available at <https://goodwin.libguides.com/academicwriter> to help with APA formatting.



Expectations for Written Work: The following are basic expectations for all written work:

1. One-inch margin for all sides of the page (e.g., top, bottom, left, and right side of the page).
2. The font is 12 point.
3. The paper is double spaced.
4. The first page of the paper includes:

Goodwin College Policies and Services

This course adheres to all policies outlined in the Goodwin College catalog.

General academic policies of Goodwin College may be found on the college web site at and in the college catalog at <http://www.goodwin.edu/academics/catalogs.asp>.

Student services information may be found on the Goodwin College website at <https://www.goodwin.edu/student-affairs/> and <http://www.goodwin.edu/library/>.