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Administration of Justice (ADMJ) 1502 Concepts of Criminal Law (3 Units) CSU:UC

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: CJA 1501 Introduction to Administration of Justice or equivalent course

Prerequisite or Co-requisite knowledge: Before entering the course, a student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of criminological theories used to explain crime and criminality;
2. Explain the methods, theories, and concepts associated with the sources of crime data, the emerging patterns of criminal activity, and the costs of crime;
3. Understand the history, development, and structure, and function of American police, courts, and corrections;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the history, structure, and function of the police;
5. Convey an understanding of the process of adjudication;
6. Show an understanding of corrections including the roles of probation, parole, and community corrections; as well as the functions of prisons and jails;
7. Identify and describe special issues in the criminal justice system involving juvenile delinquency, drugs, and the future development;
8. Critically analyze and discuss issues of crime and justice from varying perspectives;
9. Utilize conclusions from scholarly research in creating informed positions on controversial issues in criminal justice;
10. Demonstrate the ability to raise critically relevant questions based on independent reading of criminal justice literature;
11. Effectively follow the appropriate writing style practiced in the social sciences;
12. Explain the definitions of crime; and
13. Understand the extent of the crime problem in America.

Advisory: Successful completion of English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course offers an analysis of the doctrines of criminal liability in the United States and the classification of crimes against persons, property, morals, and public welfare. Special emphasis is placed on the classification of crime, the general elements of crime, the definitions of common and statutory law, and the nature of acceptable evidence. This course utilizes case law and case studies to introduce students to criminal law. The completion of this course offers a foundation upon which upper-division criminal justice course will build. The



course will also include some limited discussion of prosecution and defense decision making, criminal culpability, and defenses to crimes. C-ID: AJ 120

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text such as: [Swift, Cathy. *Criminal Law*. University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing, 2018.](#)

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Discuss the goals and characteristics of criminal law;
2. Explain the adversary system and sources of criminal law;
3. Discuss the philosophical and historical evolution of criminal law, noting the role of the judiciary in its development;
4. Know the basic terminology, definitions, and theories of criminal law;
5. Identify elements of offenses against the person, property, morals, and public welfare;
6. Classify crimes according to severity;
7. Explain the concept of lesser included offenses;
8. Explain capacity to commit crime, causation, and culpability;
9. Critically analyze various components of our system of criminal law; and
10. Explain and discuss criminal defenses, legal justifications, and burdens of proof.

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I Historical Background of Criminal Law
- A. Nature of law
 - B. Definition of crime
 - C. Legal system and the beginning of common law
 - D. Common law in the United States
 - E. Role of the judiciary in the evolution of criminal law
- Unit II Fundamentals of the Adversarial System
- A. Definition of Adversarial System
 - B. Elements of Adversarial System
 - C. Purpose of Adversarial System
 - D. Goals and Characteristics of Criminal Law
- Unit III Criminal Law Classifications
- A. Felony
 - a. categories of felony
 - b. capitol offense
 - B. Misdemeanor
 - a. categories of misdemeanor
 - b. petty offense
 - C. Infractions
 - a. categories of infractions

- D. Juvenile
- E. Aggravating factors
- F. Greater and lesser included offenses
- G. Elements of crimes

Unit IV Offenses against Persons, Property, Morals, and Public Welfare

- A. Persons
 - a. definition
 - b. assault
 - c. homicide
 - d. sex offense
 - e. other offenses
- B. Property
 - a. definition
 - b. arson
 - c. burglary
 - d. other offenses
- C. Theft/fraud
 - a. definition
 - b. theft
 - c. robbery
 - d. forgery and document crimes
 - e. extortion, blackmail, and bribery
 - f. other offenses
- D. Morals
 - a. prostitution
 - b. gambling
 - c. other
- E. Public welfare
 - a. definition
 - b. types such as
 - i. against public order
 - ii. affecting the judicial process
 - iii. organized crime
 - iv. white-collar
 - v. commercial
 - vi. environmental
 - vii. drug-related
 - viii. other
 - c. elements of the crimes

Unit V Criminal Defenses and Justifications

- A. Insanity
- B. Automatism
- C. Intoxication
- D. Mistake of fact
- E. Necessity/lesser harm
- F. Lawful capacity office
- G. Self defense
- H. Duress
- I. Capacity

- J. Other
- K. Burdens of proof

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Completing required reading including legal briefs, case law, administrative code, and regulations
3. Completing required written assignments
4. Individual projects

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures
2. Class discussions
3. Audio/Visual presentations
4. In- class scenarios
5. Group discussion
6. Research and study of materials

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Substantial writing assignments including:
 - a. essay exams
 - b. research paper using APA or other generally accepted social science format
2. Objective and subjective examinations/quizzes
3. Case analysis
4. Projects
5. Homework assignments
6. In class exercises/presentations
7. Forum responses and interaction with other students based on assigned readings from criminal justice literature/or internet sites