

Santa Rosa Junior College

Administration of Justice 22 - Criminal Law Concepts

Summer 2017 - Online Course

Introduction

Criminal law is a fascinating area of study because it sets out the parameters of human behavior and interaction in our society. This introduction to criminal law focuses on California State law, but will include many concepts and ideas that transcend all states. It includes basic legal concepts as well as specific laws relating to crimes and punishments. This course is ideal for students interested in pursuing a career in the criminal justice field including jobs in law enforcement and the legal profession. If you want to be a police officer, prosecutor, defense attorney, or paralegal, this class is a foundational piece of your education. It is intended to present the basic information needed by a student to acquire the knowledge and skills expected by the University of California and the California State University systems.

The course begins with an historical look at the Constitution, philosophy of law, and the administration of justice system. The course includes criminal law definitions, crime classification and elements, legal research and case law, evidence and investigation, criminal liability, and criminal defenses.

This course is presented entirely online and there are no face-to-face class meetings.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the origins and foundational concepts of civil and criminal law.
2. Explain how laws are developed and modified.
3. Identify, classify, and apply the essential elements of offenses against the person, property, and public order.
4. Analyze criminal liability and defenses.

Course Objectives

1. Identify the primary sources on which the law is based, including the concept of social contract, English common law, the United States Constitution, and the California Constitution. (SLO 1 and 2)
2. Distinguish between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. (SLO 1 and 2)
3. Differentiate between civil law, criminal law, and case law. (SLO 1)
4. Differentiate between substantive law and procedural law. (SLO 1)
5. Recall the statutory definition a crime. (SLO 3)
6. Classify the punishments under California law. (SLO 3)
7. Define and differentiate corpus delicti, mala en se, and mala prohibita. (SLO 3)

8. Identify the essential elements of offenses against person, property, and public order. (SLO 3)
9. Explain the concept of lesser-included offense. (SLO 3)
10. Identify inchoate crimes. (SLO 3)
11. Classify crimes by severity into felony, misdemeanor, and infraction. (SLO 3)
12. Identify parties to a crime per California law and criminal culpability. (SLO 4)
13. Explain the categories of persons considered legally incapable of committing crime. (SLO 4)
14. Explain common criminal defenses and legal justifications. (SLO 4)

Attendance

Students are expected to log-in and complete assigned, reading, writing, exams, class discussions and activities at least weekly. Logging in, but not submitting work is considered absent. Students who do not attend class for more than one week may be dropped from the class. Students are ultimately responsible for dropping the class should they wish to no longer participate or to even start the class once registered. The instructor is not obligated to drop students at any point in the course.

Participation and Standards of Conduct

Students are expected to be engaged throughout the course. It is expected that students will be open-minded and participate fully in discussions online and debate in a mature and respectful manner. Use of derogatory, condescending, or offensive language including profanity is prohibited. For example, words such as "stupid" and "dumb" have no place in describing another person's statement. Remember, disagreement is healthy and perfectly acceptable. Expressing disagreement should always include an explanation of your reasoning and, whenever possible, evidence to support your position. Class participation is included in the final grade.

In accordance with Santa Rosa Junior College Board Policies, the Student Code of Conduct, and applicable state and federal laws, discrimination based on gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or disability is prohibited in any form.

Grading

Assessment and grading in the class will be completed using points. Extra credit may be offered at the instructor's discretion.

The final course grade will be determined based on a percentage of points earned from the total possible using the scale below.

A = 90% to 100%

B = 80% to 89%

C = 70% to 79%

D = 60% to 69%
F = 59% and Below

Students can view their current grades at anytime by click on "Grades" from the course website main menu.

Disability Resources and Accommodations

If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, please contact the Disability Resources Department.

[Disability Resources Department website.](#)

Main Campus: Third floor, Bertolini Student Center - 707-527-4278 or TTY: 707-528-2442

Petaluma Campus: Jacobs Hall, Room 101 - 707-778-2491

Required Textbook

Students must have access to this textbook by the first day of class.

Hunt, D., & Rutledge, D. (2016). *California Criminal Law Concepts* (2016 ed.). New York, NY: Pearson.

The instructor may also provide additional articles or a reader. Students are responsible for all assigned content from this material in the same way as described for the textbooks above. Other books and publications may be listed as recommended, but will not be included as tested content.

Academy Honesty

All students are expected to complete their own work and all written work must be original. Work cited from other sources must be cited properly using quotations marks and references as appropriate using MLA or APA format. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated and will result in no credit for the assignment. Subsequent incidents of plagiarism may result in failing the class and a referral for formal discipline. Students will take all tests and exams individually and shall not share information from the tests with anyone. Cheating includes accessing test information from a source other than those specified by the instructor OR providing test information to another student or in any way assisting another student in completing a test. Acts of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade and subject to student discipline in accordance with Santa Rosa Junior College policy.

Writing Guidelines

Written assignments are typically due by 11:59PM on the date due unless otherwise noted. Late work will not be accepted. Papers shall be prepared using MLA or APA format with all citations included in a bibliography. All written work shall be typed using a

12-pitch font and submitted electronically through the course website unless otherwise instructed by the instructor. When a page length is specified, one page is equivalent to 300 words.

Assignments

Course work is organized into modules. The class calendar located on the [course home page](#) identifies which modules are to be completed each week. Each module typically includes a reading assignment, writing assignment, and class discussion topic. Class discussion topics may involve watching a video or reading an article and responding a question. A research paper is also required.

[Click Here For Assignment Details And Due Dates.](#)

Exams

This course includes weekly quizzes and one final exam. In all cases, students must complete the quiz or exam on the date and time scheduled. There are no make-up exams. Students are expected to complete all exams individually. Use of textbooks, notes, or electronic devices to access course website content or the Internet is prohibited unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

Instructor Contact Information

Email: gmiraglia@santarosa.edu

Phone: 707-654-4528

Office Hours: By Appointment (online or telephone)

[Click Here For More Information](#)