

Santa Rosa Junior College
Administration of Justice 22 - Criminal Law Concepts
Fall 2021 - Online Course (8-week short-term format)

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)

Work Ethic Expected Of Criminal Justice Professionals

An important part of your education is learning what is expected of a professional working in the criminal justice profession. The rationale for many of the course policies relates directly to preparing you for successful work in the criminal justice system. Some of the essential attributes of a successful criminal justice professional include:

- Honesty and trustworthy.
- Punctual, exercise time management, and the ability to meet deadlines.
- Ability to communicate effectively and accurately orally and in writing.

Participation and Standards of Conduct

It is expected that students will be open-minded and participate fully in discussions in class or 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.

When attending class meetings online using Zoom or a similar technology, students are expected to conduct themselves and participate as if they were in a live classroom. This means students must at least have a working microphone and use it to participate in discussions and to respond to questions posed by the instructor. The online live class experience is more effective with a working camera and students are strongly encouraged to participate in live class sessions with their cameras turned on. Participation in live class meetings is part of the student's participation grade.

Normally, live class sessions conducted on Zoom will not be recorded. If the instructor does record a class session, the class will be informed when the recording begins and ends. Access

to recordings of class sessions is restricted to class members only and not available for download, duplication, or distribution in any manner.

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.

Attendance

It is assumed that each student will consider attendance an absolute requirement and attend classes as assigned on a regular basis. For online classes, this means logging in and submitting assigned work in Canvas at least weekly. Regular attendance in all classes is important for satisfactory academic progress. This includes scheduled online class meetings.

Students who do not log-in to Canvas and submit the assigned work by the end of the first week of class will be dropped. Students who do not log-in and submit assigned work for 2 or more weeks in a row may be dropped by the instructor. Non-attendance (failing to log-in and submit work at least weekly) does not guarantee that the instructor will drop a student from their class and may result in an unsatisfactory grade.

Grading

Assessment and grading in the class will be completed using points. Class participation will also be considered in the final grade calculation.

Evaluation and grading of class participation in face-to-face, hybrid, or fully online classes includes active involvement in class and submission of assignments, activities, projects, group activities, and discussions (online and face-to-face). Points will be deducted for every graded item not submitted.

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. This includes all writing assignments, papers, exams, graded activities, and class participation.

A = 90% to 100%^[SEP]

B = 80% to 89%^[SEP]

C = 70% to 79%^[SEP]

D = 60% to 69%^[SEP]

F = 59% and Below

Disabilities and Accommodations

Disability Resources and Accommodations

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

[Disability Resources Department website](#)[Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

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. (2021). *California Criminal Law Concepts* (22nd ed.). New York, NY: Pearson. ISBN: 9780137454013

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.

Access To Technology

This class uses the Canvas learning management system to support all aspects of this class. You will use Canvas to access handout materials, communicate with me, submit your homework, possibly to take exams, and to access your grades. Canvas is web-based and doesn't require any special software to be installed on your computer. Canvas can be accessed from any computer with Internet access including any of the computers in the library on campus.

I highly recommend downloading the Canvas app for your mobile device. It is free and available for Apple and Android devices. You are accountable for all information posted in Canvas Announcements or sent via the Canvas Inbox.

I use Zoom for scheduled online class meetings, office hours, and as a back-up for our face-to-face class meetings. Zoom requires a microphone and speakers at least. It is best used with a camera. You can access zoom using a telephone in the event you do not have access to a computer or mobile device. I recommend downloading the free Zoom app on your computer and mobile device so that it is readily available for your use.

Academic Honesty

Students are prohibited from sharing their Canvas username and password with anyone. Students shall not allow other students or others not enrolled in the course to access course materials or the Canvas software. Allowing anyone else to access your Canvas account is

grounds for failing the course.

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. Plagiarism in any form, including self-plagiarism, will not be tolerated and will result in no credit for the assignment or removal from the class. Self-plagiarism includes submitting work, in whole or in part, used in another class for this class. Do not use paraphrasing or synonym software or tools. They result in unintelligible English which brings originality into question. Passages that appear to be from sources of automated paraphrasing will be considered plagiarism and result in no credit for the assignment. Paraphrasing in any way from an un-cited source will is plagiarism.

Students are expected to take all course exams individually. Cheating includes accessing test information in any way that is not approved by the instructor or sharing test information with another student in any way not approved by the instructor. Cheating on a test shall result in a failing grade.

How this relates: Criminal justice professionals are expected to be honest, trustworthy and to be able to communicate effectively and accurately orally and in writing.

Writing Guidelines and Submission

Written assignments are typically due by 11:59PM on the date due unless otherwise noted. Late work will not be accepted.

It is highly recommended that work be submitted well before the last hour before the deadline. A technology failure is not an excuse to submit late work. Assignments sent by email will not be accepted unless specifically directed by the instructor.

In the case of an illness requiring hospitalization or that is so severe that the student cannot participate online or in class, the student may submit a note signed by a doctor to support an extension or incomplete grade in the class (see college catalog for incomplete grade policy).

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.

How this relates: Criminal justice professionals are expected to be punctual, exercise effective time management, and to meet deadlines. There are many deadlines contained within the law that if missed public the public safety at risk.

Assignments

This course requires students to participate in several research and presentation projects. Each week typically includes a reading assignment and writing assignment.

See the course website for more details about the required projects and assignments.

Exams

Exams will include questions from assigned readings, videos, handout material and links found in the learning modules. They will also include questions from material presented in class, by guest speakers, and from videos shown in class. Questions may be multiple choice, true/false, and short essay.

Students must complete the 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.

Class Emergency Plan

In the event of an emergency that prevents our class from meeting in person or continuing online, I will post instructions and information in an Announcement in Canvas. If Canvas is not operational, I will send information using your college email address. Be sure you check your student email regularly or have it forwarded to an email account that you see daily.

Should the college have to close for any reason, I will, whenever possible, continue class online using Canvas and Zoom for class meetings. It is your responsibility to monitor Announcements in Canvas and your student email and to prepare ahead of time for an alternative way to access your education. I recommend downloading the free Zoom app for your computer and mobile device.

Changes To Course Schedule, Assignments And Syllabus

The course schedule, assignments, and syllabus are subject to change based on the needs of the instructor. You will be notified via the Canvas Inbox or a Canvas Announcement of any changes made. It is your responsibility to check the Canvas Inbox and Canvas Announcements regularly.

Instructor Contact Information

Email: Use the Canvas Inbox or gmiraglia@santarosa.edu (as a back-up)

Phone: 707-654-4528

Office Hours: Online By Appointment via Zoom

Websites: www.gregmiraglia.com

