



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	AJ
Course Number:	103
Descriptive Title:	Concepts of Criminal Law
Division:	Health Sciences and Athletics
Department:	Administration of Justice
Course Disciplines:	Administration of Justice
Catalog Description:	In this course, students examine the historical development and philosophy of law and its application to the criminal justice system. Topics covered include legal research, case law, classifications of crime, crimes against persons and property and crimes against the state.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English 1A
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	July 1992
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	Fall 1995
General Education: ECC	Area 2C - Social and Behavioral Science
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area D - Social Sciences
Term:	fall 2020
Other:	
IGETC:	Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences

	Term: fall 2020
	Other:
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1 Definition of Crime</p> <p>Successful students in AJ 103, after reading text material, participating in discussions and completion of written assignments, will be able to describe what a crime is and what the legal requirements are for any crime statute.</p> <p>SLO #2 Felonies & Misdemeanors</p> <p>Successful students in AJ 103, after reading text material, participating in discussions and completion of written assignments, will be able to research and locate any of the major felonies and misdemeanor crimes as discussed in class.</p> <p>SLO #3 Corpus Delicti</p> <p>Successful students in AJ 103, after reading text material, participating in discussions and completion of written assignments, will be able to read any criminal statute, list and describe that statute's elements, and list and describe the corpus delicti of the respective crime as written in the statute.</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Articulate the historical evolution and the origin of criminal law and its philosophies. 2. Conduct legal research using legal journals and texts. 3. Compare and contrast statutory, constitutional and case law. 4. Distinguish among felonies, misdemeanors and infractions. 5. Analyze the factors involved in the "Capacity to Commit an Offense". 6. Assess and contrast "crimes against property" with "crimes against persons". 7. Examine the development of California Statutory Law. 8. Identify offenses Against Persons, Property, Morals and Public Welfare. 9. Explain and discuss criminal defenses, legal justifications and burdens of proof.
Major Topics:	<p>I. OVERVIEW OF CRIMINAL LAW (3 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. History</p> <p>B. Cultural influences</p> <p>II. LEGAL RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY (3 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Criminal law terminology</p> <p>B. Legal research methodology</p> <p>C. Construction of penal statutes</p> <p>D. Conflict between statutes</p> <p>III. LEGAL, PHILOSOPHICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT (6 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. General and specific sources of law</p>

- B. Case Law and common law
- C. Mala in se versus Mala prohibita crimes
- D. Victimless crimes
- E. Dual federalism
- G. Federal constitutional provisions
- H. Police power of the state
- I. Dual federalism

IV. THE NATURE OF LAW (6 hours, lecture)

- A. The definition of crime
- B. The purpose of criminal law
- C. Criminal versus civil law

V. CLASSIFICATION OF CRIMES (6 hours, lecture)

- A. Distinction between felonies, misdemeanors and
infractions
- B. Punishments
- C. Lesser and included offenses
- D. Double jeopardy
- E. Statute of limitations

VI. CORPUS DELICTI - ELEMENTS OF CRIME (6 hours, lecture)

- A. Role of corpus delicti
- B. Act and intent - negligence
- C. Proximate cause
- D. Intent
- E. Transferred intent
- F. Negligence

VII. CAPACITY TO COMMIT AND OFFENSE (6 hours, lecture)

A. Exemptions to criminal liability (26 Penal Code)

B. Mitigating factors and other defenses

C. Capital crimes

D. Malice

E. Motive

F. Intoxication

G. Parties to a crime

H. Attempts

I. Conspiracy

J. Solicitation

VIII. ELEMENTS OF SPECIFIC CRIMES (10 hours, lecture)

A. Crimes against property

B. Crimes against the person

C. Crimes against public decency, morality and
the public peace

D. Offenses against persons, property, morals
and public welfare

IX. MODIFICATIONS IN THE LAW (8 hours, lecture)

A. United States Code

B. Development of California Statutory Law

C. Business and Professions Code

D. Health and Safety Code

E. Penal Code

F. Welfare and Institutions Code

G. City and county ordinances

H. Victims Bill of Rights

Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation:	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Write a two- to three-page legal brief for an assigned court case. Submit brief to the instructor.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Given a fictional crime scenario, identify, analyze and list the elements of any crime(s) that may have occurred. Prepare a 300-400 word essay and submit to the instructor.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	After reviewing video scenario, prepare a two paragraph short essay answer on a quiz identifying the corpus delicti of the crime(s) observed. Submit essay to the instructor.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Class Performance, Embedded Questions, Essay Exams, Homework Problems, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Other (specify), Presentation, Quizzes, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Guest Speakers, Lecture, Multimedia presentations, Role play/simulation
If other:	Internet Presentation/Resources
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks:	Hunt, Rutledge. <u>CALIFORNIA CRIMINAL LAW CONCEPTS</u> , 2022 edition. Pearson ISBN-13: 9780137942404
Alternative Textbooks:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	

Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	<p>Ability to read and understand law enforcement texts and journal articles. Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts.</p> <p>Ability to write essays and papers. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.</p>
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	John Hampton
Date:	11/11/1111
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Ruan Anthony and Mark Fields
Date:	10/18/2018
Last Board Approval Date:	12/19/2022