

**CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
SYLLABUS FOR CJSA 1327
FUNDAMENTALS OF CRIMINAL LAW**

Semester Hours Credit: 3

INSTRUCTOR: _____

OFFICE HOURS: _____

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This course will provide a fundamental study of criminal law as it is applicable to the law enforcement officer. It will include philosophical and historical development, major definitions and concepts, classification of crime, elements of crimes and penalties, and individual criminal responsibilities.
- B. This course is a required course for an Associate in Applied Science degree program.
- C. This course is occupationally related and serves as preparation for careers in Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, and Corrections.
- D. Prerequisites: (None)
- E. Alphanumeric coding used throughout the syllabus denotes the integration of SCANS occupational competencies (C) and Fundamental skills (F).

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, Fundamentals of Criminal Law, the student will:

- A. Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law. (C3, C5-C7, F1, F2, F6)
- B. Describe definitions and concepts of criminal law and the classifications of crimes and penalties. (C3, C5-C7, F6)
- C. List the elements of crimes. (C3, C5-C7, F1, F2)
- D. Discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to criminal statutes. (C1, C3, C5-C7, C15, F1, F2, F5, F6, F11)

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

- A. The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through

www.ctcd.edu/books

- B. References: The following are supplementary texts.
1. Black's Law Dictionary
 2. U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and latest Amendments, and Texas Constitution
 3. U.S. Codes (select Civil and Criminal Codes)
- C. Structured note taking will be provided for relevant lectures from the text (1). Material for other lectures will come from the Texas Criminal Law and Motor Vehicle Handbook (2). Structured note taking is revised/condensed material from the required text book, and may include additional material to supplement the course. Structured note taking does not eliminate the responsibility of the student to acquire and read the text. All testable information will be provided during lectures to complete the structured note taking or specifically identified sections of the required text.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Your first responsibility is scholarship. The grade you receive will be the result of your efforts, not a gift from the instructor.
- B. You should attend class regularly and be prepared to participate in classroom discussions and to take unannounced quizzes relating to text assignments and lecture material presented from the beginning of the course..
- C. You are encouraged to give your best effort throughout the semester. From the beginning, you should plan for a steady, organized, and continuous effort, which in the long run will prove more effective for your final grade than a last minute crash-cram policy. Your course grade is not determined solely by exam grade. Such factors as class participation, initiative, attendance, and individual research papers will be considered in grade computation.
- D. From time to time, special library and/or outside assignments will be made to members of the class individually and/or in groups. You are expected to read all assignments and fulfill your responsibilities to any group assignment.
- E. You are expected to read all assigned material and bring your text book to class. Keep informed on all assignments, especially after an absence.
- F. Good class notes are indispensable for earning a good grade, since both the material assigned and that discussed in class will be the basis for examination material.
- G. Special Work: A writing assignment will be required. The value is indicated in the semester grade computation and has considerable weight on your final average.

V. EXAMINATIONS

- A. There will be a minimum of three major examinations as follows:
1. Three-week exam
 2. Mid-term exam
 3. Twelve-week exam
 4. Final exam
- B. A student must be present for all examinations. Students who know in advance that they will be absent from an examination due to valid reasons must arrange to take an early examination. Unexpected absences due to illness or extenuating circumstance will require the student to see the instructor during the instructor's office hours (not during class time) about a make-up exam.
- C. Make-up exams will be modified from the original exam administered to the class during the testing period.
- D. Students without excused absences will be given a zero for the missed examination.
- E. Examinations may consist of objective (true/false, multiple choice, and fill-in-the-blank) or subjective (short answer and essay) questions, or a combination of both types. Students majoring in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement must be able to communicate both orally and in written form, thus some questions requiring the composition and writing of an essay answer will be required.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATION

<u>POINTS</u>	<u>GRADES</u>
900-1000	=A
800- 899	=B
700- 799	=C
600- 699	=D
0- 599	=F

VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR

- A. **Withdrawal from course:** It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file a Central Texas College Application for Withdrawal (CTC Form 59). The withdrawal form must be signed by the student.

CTC Form 59 will be accepted at any time prior to Friday of the 12th week of classes during the 16 week fall and spring semesters. The deadline for sessions of other lengths is as follows:

10 week session	Friday of the 8th week
8 week session	Friday of the 6th week
5 week session	Friday of the 4th week

The equivalent date (75% of the semester) will be used for session of other lengths. The specific last date to withdraw is published each semester in the Schedule Bulletin.

Students who officially withdraw will be awarded the grade of "W," provided the student's attendance and academic performance are satisfactory at the time of official withdrawal. Student must file a withdrawal application with the college before they may be considered for withdrawal.

A student may not withdraw from a class for which the instructor has previously issued the student a grade of "F" or "FN" nonattendance.

- B. **Administrative Withdrawal:** An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet college attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the Administrative Withdrawal Form for submission to the registrar.
- C. **Incomplete Grade:** The College catalog states, "An incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the course work but, because of personal illness, death in the immediate family, or military orders, the student is unable to complete the requirements for a course..." Prior approval from the instructor is required before the grade of "I" is recorded. A student who merely fails to show for final examination will receive a zero for the final and an "F" for the course.
- D. **Cellular Phones and Beepers:** Cellular phones and beepers will be turned off while the student is in the classroom or laboratory.
- E. **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA):** Disability Support Services provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

- F. **Instructor Discretion:** The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.
- G. **Civility:** Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

- A. Chapter One: Criminal Law and Criminal Punishment: An Overview
- B. Chapter Two: Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law
- C. Chapter Three: The Criminal Act: The First Principle of Criminal Liability
- D. Chapter Four: The General Principles of Criminal Liability: Mens Rea, Concurrence, Causation, Ignorance, and Mistake
- E. Chapter Five: Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications
- F. Chapter Six: Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuses
- G. Chapter Seven: Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability
- H. Chapter Eight: Inchoate Crimes
- I. Chapter Nine: Crimes against Persons I: Murder and Manslaughter
- J. Chapter Ten: Crimes against Persons II: Sex Offenses, Bodily injury, and Personal Restraint
- K. Chapter Eleven: Crimes against Property
- L. Chapter Twelve: Crimes against Public Order and Morals
- M. Chapter Thirteen: Crimes against the State