

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO**

**Criminal Justice Division  
CRJ 2  
LAW OF CRIMES  
Spring 2009**

**Professor Julie Mumma**

Email: [j.mumma@yahoo.com](mailto:j.mumma@yahoo.com) & WebCT (SacCT)

Office Phone: (916) 443-9120

Office Hours: MWF from 8:30-9:00 a.m. and Noon-12:30 p.m. (or by appointment)

Office Location: Alpine 107

Class: MWF 9:00–9:50 a.m.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. Crime In California, Kubicek (Kendall Hunt)
2. Clicker (eInstruction)

**Course Description:**

Introduction to the case method of studying criminal law. Understanding and correlating the common law crimes and substantive law crimes. Study and emphasis on the classification and nature of crimes, the requisite elements of the major common law felonies and criminal responsibility of various persons involved in crime. Note: Not open for credit to students who have completed CRJ 002A. Must earn a grade of “C” or better to be declared as a Criminal Justice major. 3 Units.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Understand the development of the criminal law by reading and interpreting case and statutory law.
2. Learn to read, analyze and summarize court decisions.
3. Comprehend the law and its applications by working through numerous factual scenarios.
4. Learn substantive criminal law such as the offenses against the person, habitation and property.
5. Understand the requisite elements of the major criminal law felonies including actus reus and mens rea.
6. Learn the criminal culpabilities of various persons involved in the commission of a crime.
7. Become familiar with defenses to crime including self-defense, insanity, reasonable doubt and mistake of fact and law.

### **Grades:**

A- to A.....90-100% of accumulated class points  
B- to B+.....80- 89%  
C- to C+.....70- 79%  
D- to D+..... 60- 69%  
F..... Below 60%

### **Your course grade will be determined by your performance in the following activities:**

- 1. CASE BRIEFS AND RULE SUMMARY (10 points)**  
**This assignment is due in class on Monday, March 2nd.** This assignment requires the submission of all case briefs assigned from Week 1 through Week 5 AND a separate cover page summarizing the rule from each assigned case brief. This assignment may be handwritten notes or typed or any combination thereof.
- 2. MID-TERM EXAM (30 points)**  
**This examination is in class on Friday, March 6th.** The mid-term exam will cover the material to date and will be a combination of essay, multiple choice and true or false.
- 3. CASE BRIEFS AND RULE SUMMARY (10 points)**  
**This assignment is due in class on Friday, May 8th.** This assignment requires the submission of all case briefs assigned from Week 7 through Week 15 AND a separate cover page summarizing the rule from each assigned case brief. This assignment may be handwritten notes or typed or any combination thereof.
- 4. FINAL EXAM (50 points)**  
**This examination is in class per the final examination schedule.** The final exam will cover the material after the mid-term and will be a combination of essay, multiple choice and true or false.

### **Recommendations**

In order to achieve success in this class, class preparation, attendance and participation are essential. Learning the legal concepts presented and developing the skills necessary to accurately apply these concepts requires the discussion and illustration of concepts only available in the classroom. Students will learn about the law of crimes by reading and analyzing judicial decisions. You should always have the next two cases briefed for each class session. The case method approach of teaching will be used along with classroom lectures. The **clickers** will be used to monitor attendance and assess class participation and comprehension. Students should definitely utilize the self assessments on **WebCT (SacCT)**. There will be review sessions at the middle and end of the semester. **It is critical for success on the mid-term and final examinations that students brief the assigned cases *before* each class, take the practice assessments and complete any study material handouts *in advance* of each review.**

### **WebCT (SacCT)**

You must have a Saclink account in order to utilize WebCT (SacCT). There will be practice quizzes posted in the assessment section after each section is completed. These quizzes will provide valuable personal feedback on your comprehension of the material and prepare you for the objective portion of the mid-term and final examinations. These quizzes are NOT graded. If you miss class, access the calendar section to view what case briefs were covered and whether there were any handouts. All materials and handouts are accessible within the course materials icon. The power point lecture slides will not be posted. However, feel free to post a request for any missed notes in the student chat section. You are encouraged to form discussion groups to help each other analyze the course material and assigned cases.

### **Writing Assistance**

The College of Health and Human Services Writing Center, located in Solano Hall 5000, is a program designed to assist students with all stages of writing from pre-writing through editing a text utilizing a peer-tutoring environment. The Center is staffed by graduate students from the English Department. You may contact the Center at (916) 278-7255.

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities**

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or schedule an office appointment early in the semester.

### **Academic Dishonesty and matters of makeup exams and late assignments**

One would hope that the following admonitions would be unnecessary for any students enrolled in a course in the Division of Criminal Justice. Any student who engages in any form of **cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of dishonesty SHALL receive ZERO points** for the assignment or test and **be referred to the Office of Student Affairs** for the appropriate discipline. A student tutorial on how not to plagiarize may be found at <http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353>.

### **Missed Examinations or Assignment Deadlines**

The general rule is there will be no makeup exams provided OR late assignments accepted.

## Weekly Class Topics and Assignments

### WEEK TOPIC & ASSIGNMENT

Weeks 1-3	Introduction to criminal law and case briefing Sections 1 (pp.2-14) and the following case: Fisher v. Carrousel Motor Hotel  Assault & Battery Section 4 (pp. 187-239) and the following cases: People v. Myers; People v. Lara; People v. Martinez  Burglary and Arson Section 5 (pp. 243-257) and the following cases: In re Amber S.; People v. Rodriguez; People v. Labaer  Property Crimes Section 6 (pp. 261-291) and the following cases: People v. Williams; People v. Shannon; People v. Wooten; People v. Hidalgo; People v. Pugh; People v. Hesslink
Weeks 4-5	Attempt, Conspiracy & Solicitation Section 7 (pp. 297-349) and the following cases: People v. Guerra; People v. Van Ronk; People v. Toledo; People v. Cecil; People v. Swain; People v. Russo  Accomplice Liability Section 8 (pp. 353-357) and the following case: People v. Cook  Other Offenses Section 9 (pp. 363-373) and the following case: People v. Hill
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>BRIEF ASSIGNMENT REVIEW MID-TERM EXAMINATION</b>
Weeks 7-11	Homicide Section 2 (pp.15-117) Keeler v. Superior Court; People v. Davis; People v. Mathews; People v. Bland; People v. Anderson; People v. Perez; People v. Billa; People v. Stamp; People v. Curtis; People v. Satchell; People v. Ireland; People v. Flannel; People v. Penny; People v. Rodriquez
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>SPRING BRIEF</b>

Week 12-13

Defenses

Section 3 (pp. 123-181) and the following cases:

People v. Humphrey; People v. Button; People v. Myers;

People v. Curtis; People v. Saille; People v. Velez; People v. Lucero

**Weeks 14-15**

Crimes against the person (excluding Assault & Battery)

Section 4 (pp. 187-239) and the following cases:

People v. Iniguez; People v. Ewing; People v. Hoard

**BRIEF ASSIGNMENT**

**Week 16**

**REVIEW**

**FINAL PER EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**