CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
Criminal Justice Division

CrJ 2
Law of Crimes

Required Text:

Recommended Texts:
Criminal Law, Perkins and Boyce, 3rd Edition, Foundation Press
California Penal Code, West Group, 2002 Ed., (not the peace officers edition.)
Blacks Law Dictionary

Grading & Examinations:
The course grade is calculated on the basis of a mid-term examination (30%), a final examination (30%),
writing project (30%) and class participation (10%). Students are expected to prepare all assigned reading in
advance and to participate in class discussions and oral case briefing. In addition students are required to
participate in an online classroom utilizing Web CT (instructions follow in this syllabus). All exams are
closed book. Make up exams are strongly discouraged and will only be permitted with prior approval by the
instructor. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true or false and "law school hypothetical" style essay
questions. A grading rubric for the essay questions is available in the course materials in Web CT.

Grading Scale:
A 93-100       B 83-86       C 73-76       D 63-66
A- 90-92       B- 80-82      C- 70-72      D- 60-62
B+ 87-89       C+ 77-79      D+ 67-69

Writing Project:
Throughout the course of the semester students will read the material in the required text and prepare ‘legal
briefs’ for each case in preparation for class discussion. Each student will be required to compile a briefing
notebook containing briefs as indicated on the attached assignment sheet. The briefs will be graded for
format and analysis.

In addition, each student will prepare an objective legal memorandum on a hypothetical case on an issue
relating to the substantive criminal law. This legal memo will be prepared in traditional legal format
(instruction will be provided in class). The memo is required to be between 6-8 pages in length, typewritten,
double-spaced, in courier new 12 pt. font with 1" page margins. Students will be guided through an
introduction to legal research and will learn to utilize legal authority in order to analyze the issue presented
in the hypothetical case. The project will be due November 30th in class. Late papers will NOT be
accepted.

Course Procedure:
This course is a study of the substantive law of crimes. It requires significant outside reading and excellent
note taking during class lecture and discussion. The university has a Skills Center in Lassen Hall, available
to assist you as needed with study skills – do not hesitate to take advantage of this resource if you feel you
will need the help. There is also an English Writing Center in Calaveras Hall, room 128, where you can be
assigned a tutor to help strengthen your writing skills. There is also a criminal justice writing tutor available
to consult with you at no cost. You can contact Debbie Mullin in the CrJ Student Services Center, Alpine Hall, Room 114 for information. 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 during my office hours early in the semester.

**Web CT Component**

You will be required to utilize Web CT, a virtual online classroom, for this course. You must have a Saclink account in order to utilize Web CT. If you have not yet done so, visit the UCCS office on the 3rd floor in Sequoia Hall to obtain a Saclink account. For each lecture series (by topic) there is a downloadable outline for you to utilize as you view the lecture. It should serve as a "skeleton" for your class notes and will allow you to take notes on the material I discuss during class, rather than copying down the information from the power point presentations that accompany my lectures. In addition to utilizing the website to download helpful handouts, and course outlines, you will also be assigned to a discussion group. You are required to post a message during the semester each week, and respond to one post each week as well. Because of the critical nature of this component of the course, if a student fails to post for more than two weeks during the semester, it will result in removal from the course and a grade of "WU" being assigned for the semester. It is extremely important that students appreciate the necessity of participating in the online classroom in order to ensure their success in this course.

**Plagiarism**

Students in this course will be held to the highest standard of personal accountability with regard to issues of plagiarism and cheating. *If you engage in either plagiarism or cheating on course work or examinations you will fail this course and will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs for University level discipline.*

**Learning Mastery Goals:**

1. The substantive law of crimes (not including defenses to crime) including their common law elements and statutory variations at the state and federal level. These matters are contained in *Criminal Law and Procedure, 8th Ed.* on page 1-563.
   a. General terminology and classification of the substantive law of crimes
   b. Crimes against the person including:
      i. Homicide
      ii. Abduction, kidnapping and false imprisonment
      iii. Assaults and battery including sexual trespass
   
   c. Crimes Against Property
      i. Burglary
      ii. Larceny and its variations including robbery
      iii. Arson and malicious damage of property
   
   d. Crimes against the public health, safety and welfare
      i. Sexual regulation
      ii. Peace disturbance
      iii. Regulatory violations
   
   e. Criminal Responsibility
      i. Imputability – criminal agency, negative and incomplete acts, crimes in concert with others
      ii. An overview of Causation
2. Techniques of statutory interpretation and the application of common law principles to statutes and case law.
3. The ethics and societal values associated with the American substantive law system.
4. Skills and technique of expression related to the substantive law including terms of art and their application to concept manipulation.
5. Research and learning tools associated with the course subject matter sufficient to promote lifelong learning.

The learning objectives of this course are as follows:

1. The ability to apply the substantive criminal law articulated within the mastery goals to a complex series of facts, where the focus of the substantive criminal law issues are not isolated from their surrounding distracters. By first defining the applicable legal concepts, then applying those concepts to the facts in a reasoned and defensible manner of deduction, and then coming to a conclusion as to the appropriate application of a substantive law to those facts, even where the possible solution is subject to a multiplicity of correct conclusions.
2. The ability to interpret and explain in a logical and defensible manner the meaning of substantive legal statutes within an environmental context of statute and case law.
3. The ability to engage in inductive reasoning from the ethical and societal values associated with the American substantive law system in the logical interpretation of statutory and substantive common law.
4. The ability to express in a logical and reasoned manner the substantive law as articulated in the above course goals, applying the unique terms of art associated with this law including the manipulation of these terms in their application to varied fact patterns.
5. The ability to make use of research and tools independent of the structured learning environment so as to permit independent and lifelong learning. This includes the ability to engage in the learning technique of case briefing as engaged in as a standard of study commonly followed in American law schools.

Writing Project Due Date: November 30th in Class.

Class Assignments and Exams by Week:
This schedule is intended as a guide and is subject to change by the instructor as necessary.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>1-16</td>
<td>Introduction, Case Briefing &amp; Analysis, The legal system &amp; study of law</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>39-78</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
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<td>Week 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>Homicide Continued</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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<td>Assault &amp; Battery</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
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<td>Other Offenses Against the Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>catch up &amp; review</td>
<td>Burglary &amp; Arson</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>195-232</td>
<td>Review &amp; Mid-Term Examination</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>233-243</td>
<td>Larceny</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Pages</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>243-357</td>
<td>Theft Related Offenses</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>358-392</td>
<td>Attempt &amp; Kindred Problems</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Attempts Concluded</td>
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<td>441-510</td>
<td>Conspiracy</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>510-563</td>
<td>Overview of the Law of Causation</td>
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**Final Exam**

Check the final exam schedule in the Schedule of Courses!