



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number
CRJ 202

Course Title
Criminal Law

Credits
3

Hours:
Lecture/Lab/Other

Co- or Pre-requisite

Implementation
Semester & Year

3 Lecture Hours

None

Spring 2022

Catalog description:

Examines the evolution and development of criminal laws as well as the nature of crime, basic principles of criminal law, plus defenses, and court presentation.

General Education Category:
Not GenEd

Course coordinator:
Cavit Cooley
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Required texts & Other materials: Please reference your professor's syllabus for the exact learning materials and or textbook for the semester; do not order or purchase any learning material or textbooks until contacting your professor and or reviewing the syllabus. The following has been used at some time but may not be currently required:

New Jersey Criminal Code for Law Enforcement Officers
Author: Looseleaf Law
Publisher: Looseleaf Law Publications

Principles of Criminal Law, 7th edition
Author: Roberson
Publisher: Pearson Education
2020

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Categorize and interrelate the process of criminal law through common law, constitutional law, statutory law and case law. [Supports ILG 5, 9, 11; PLO 1, 2]
2. Distinguish between substantive and procedural criminal law. [Supports ILG 5, 9, 11; PLO 1]

3. Evaluate, categorize, classify, interrelate, and identify crimes as to seriousness, parties, elements and degree of completion. [Supports ILG 5, 9, 11; PLO 1, 2]
4. List, describe and demonstrate ramifications of the factors that lessen criminal responsibility. [Supports ILG 5, 9, 11; PLO 1, 2, 4]
5. List the elements of specific crimes and determine the specific crime committed when presented with a complicated fact situation. [Supports ILG 5, 9, 11; PLO1, 4]
6. Analyze and criticize the use of criminal law in areas of social concern. [Supports ILG 5, 9, 11; PLO 1, 2]

Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG)

Institutional Learning Goal 5. Social Science. Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.

Institutional Learning Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action. Students will understand ethical frameworks, issues, and situations.

Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking: Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

Program Learning Outcomes for Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Option(PLO)

1. Discuss the history and philosophy of the components of the criminal justice system
2. Describe the formal and informal political and community structures that affect criminal justice agencies
3. Describe the fundamental concepts and principles of management and administration employed in various police agencies.
4. Discuss the roles of various criminal justice professionals,

Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:

Unit I **Overview of Basic Constitutional and Criminal Justice Principles** [Supports Course SLO 1, 6]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Explain and define the basic principles of criminal law and criminal justice, including Burden of Proof, Reasonable Doubt, Presumption of Innocence, Due Process.
- Explain and define the rights and protections of the Bill of Rights, including the protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, the right to counsel, self-incrimination, compulsory process, confrontation, speedy trial, grand jury, double jeopardy, Due Process.
- Criticize, analyze and apply the Bill of Rights as it relates to the procedural aspects of criminal law.

Unit II **Sources of Criminal Law** [Supports Course SLO 1, 2, 3]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Identify and explain the sources of modern criminal law
- Differentiate between substantive and procedural criminal law.
- Classify crimes with regard to seriousness, procedure, social harm
- Delineate and define the theories/philosophical justifications for punishment

- Distinguish and evaluate the moral underpinnings of criminal law
- Understand and apply the principles relating to the permissible scope of criminal laws within the constitutional principle of the police power of the state.
- Illustrate and evaluate the moral underpinnings of criminal law
- Classify and apply the principles relating to the permissible scope of criminal laws within the constitutional principle of the police power of the state.

Unit III Definition and Elements of Crime [Supports Course SLO 2, 3]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Define and explain the principle of criminal law that an “Act (Actus Reus) + Intent (Mens Rea) = Criminal Liability” and explain in detail the requirements of Actus Reus, Mens Rea and Causation.
- Describe and distinguish the development of the principles of accomplice liability from the English Common Law to the New Jersey Criminal Code.
- Differentiate between principals and degrees of accessories.

Unit IV Preliminary, Property, and Personal Crimes [Supports Course SLO 3, 4, 5, 6]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Identify and explain the five stages of a crime.
- Define and distinguish between the preliminary crimes of Conspiracy, Solicitation and Attempt.
- Explain the similarities and differences between the elements of Common Law preliminary crimes and New Jersey Criminal Code preliminary crimes.
- Define, list the elements of, evaluate, criticize, analyze, explain and identify those crimes which are classified as property crimes including Burglary, Larceny/Theft, Robbery and Arson.
- Explain the similarities and differences between Common Law and New Jersey Criminal Code Property crimes.
- Define, list the elements of, evaluate, criticize, analyze, explain and identify those crimes which are classified as Personal including Bias Intimidation, Terrorism, Assault and Homicide.
- Illustrate the similarities and differences between Common Law and New Jersey Criminal Code Assault and Homicide.

Evaluation of student learning:

Students should be given a variety of opportunities for course participation. This may include oral discussions and or presentations, examinations, and research writing. The student will be given at least two (2) examinations during the course of the term with the dates and format to be decided by the instructor. Examinations may include an essay component. Students will be given adequate advance notice of the dates and the topics in each examination. The student may also be required to write at least one research assignment. The research assignment will be a book review of an important work in criminal law, a summary of an interview with any primary worker in the field of criminal law, or a research paper on a specific issue in criminal

law. The instructor will determine the percentage of examinations, the research paper, and class participation in the computation of each student's grade.

<u>Scale</u>	A	93 – 100 %
	A-	90 – 92 %
	B+	87 – 89 %
	B	83 – 86 %
	B-	80 – 82 %
	C+	77 – 79 %
	C	70 – 76 %
	D	60 – 69 %
	F	0 – 59 %

Teaching-learning methods employed shall include lectures, discussions supplemented by appropriate related texts, and audio-visual media. Guest speakers (practitioners) and other academicians are considered to be beneficial to keep the course current and meaningful. Field trips when and wherever possible may be utilized.