

COURSE OUTLINE FALL 2008

<u>CRJ 202</u> Course Number		<u>Criminal Law</u> Course Title		<u>3</u> Credits
<u>3/week</u> Class or Lecture Hours	<u>0/week</u> Laboratory Work Hours	<u>0/week</u> Laboratory, Shop, Studio or Clinic Experience	<u>0/week</u> Work Experience Hours	<u>15 weeks</u> Semester Length
<u>Not Applicable</u> Performance on an Examination/Demonstration			<u>Not Applicable</u> Telecourse	

Required Materials:

Reference Business and Technology Division booklist.

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.

Latest Review: Fall 2006

Prerequisites: None

Co-requisites: None

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## General Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

Categorize and interrelate the process of criminal law through common law, constitutional law, statutory law and case law.

Distinguish between substantive and procedural criminal law.

Evaluate, categorize, classify, interrelate, and identify crimes as to seriousness, parties, elements and degree of completion.

List, describe and demonstrate ramifications of the factors which lessen criminal responsibility.

List the elements of specific crimes and determine the specific crime committed when presented with a complicated fact situation.

Analyze and criticize the use of criminal law in areas of social concern.

## Specific Course Objectives:

The course is divided into the following seven units:

1. The definition of crime, criminal law, and punishment
2. General classification, parties, elements, degree of completion of crime
3. Diminution of criminal responsibilities
4. Personal crimes
5. Property crimes
6. Public crimes
7. Crimes against government

Each unit is two weeks in length for a total of 14 weeks. The remaining week will be devoted to testing (midterm after Unit 3) and a field trip to a local court (individual). The week also gives leeway in case of unanticipated loss of time. Also, Unit 7 is particularly demanding and may require the use of the 15th week.

The student will be able to:

Unit 1:

- Give the definition of crime, criminal law, and punishment.
- Differentiate between substantive and procedural law.
- Interrelate the derivation of criminal law through English common law, Federal and State constitutions, statutes and cases.
- Criticize, analyze and apply the Bill of Rights as it relates to the procedural aspects of criminal law.
- Delineate and define the theories of the purpose of punishment.

Unit 2:

- Be aware of general classification, parties, elements and degree of completion of crimes.
- Classify crimes with regard to seriousness, moral turpitude, procedure, and in terms of social harm.
- Distinguish between single and multiple crimes.
- Distinguish between principles and degrees of accessories.
- List, define, and evaluate the basic elements of crime, Corpus Delecti, mens rea, the criminal act, concurrence of the act with the criminal intent.
- Define and distinguish between attempts, solicitation, and conspiracy.

Unit 3:

- Be aware of diminution of criminal responsibility.
- Describe, analyze, give specific examples of and evaluate those facts which excuse criminal conduct, i.e.: threat of duress, juvenility, marital status, consent of victim, legal justification, etc.
- Describe, analyze, give specific examples of, and evaluate those facts which give rise to defenses in criminal cases, i.e., insanity, intoxication, mistake of fact, mistake of law, amnesia, diminished mental capacity, etc.
- Differentiate between legal excuse and legal defense.

Unit 4:

- Define, list the elements of, evaluate, criticize, analyze, explain and identify those crimes which are classified as personal in nature. This will include but not be limited to homicide, robbery, aggravated assault and rape.

Unit 5:

- Define, list the elements of, evaluate, criticize, analyze, explain and identify those crimes which are classified as property in nature, including, but not limited to, burglary, robbery, larceny and arson.

Unit 6:

- Define, list the elements of, evaluate, criticize, analyze, explain and identify those crimes classified as public in nature, including, but not limited to, consensual activities, nuisances, public peace violations, and moral offense.

Unit 7:

- Define, list the elements of, evaluate, criticize, analyze, explain and identify those crimes classified as being against government in nature, including offenses affecting the administration of justice, offenses against the existence of government and some common violations of Federal law.

### Method of Evaluation

Final grade will be calculated as follows:

5 unit quizzes (taken from workbook exercises – 4 best counted)	40%
Midterm examination	25%
Take home final (due at the beginning of last class)	25%
Class participation	10%

Scale

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 %

### Academic Integrity:

Mercer County Community College is committed to Academic Integrity -- the honest, fair and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. This implies that students are expected to be responsible for their own work and that faculty and academic support services staff members will take reasonable precautions to prevent the opportunity for academic dishonesty.