



Course Name: CJS-221 Criminal Law and Procedure

Date Updated: 4/2022

Credit Hours/week: 3 hrs./wk. – 3 cr.

BEGINNING: SPRING 2022

Catalog Description: This course consists of a fundamental overview of the historical development and philosophy of law including definitions, classifications, and Constitutional origins. Additional topics are case law, methodology, and the concept of law as a social force; a study of the rules of evidence with emphasis upon the nature of evidence, burden of proof, confessions, admissions and witnesses, as well as a consideration of judicial procedures and the application of legal concepts to the justice process.

Prerequisite: None

Text: Worrall, J. & Moore, J. (2014). Criminal Law and Procedure. Pearson Education, Inc.; Upper Saddle River, NJ

Leveritt, M. (2002). Devil’s Knot. New York, NY: Atria Paperback (Simon & Schuster).

Supplementary Material: None

Syllabus:

Table with 2 columns: Text Sections and Topics. Rows include Chapter 1 (Overview and Introduction Legal Foundations), Chapter 2 (Limitations on the Criminal law), Chapter 3 (The Elements of Criminal Liability), Chapters 4 and 5 (Complicity and Vicarious Liability, Inchoate Crimes, New York Times Article), Chapter 6 (Crimes Against Persons, Devil’s Knot Assignment 1 Due), Chapter 7 (Property Damage/Invasion), Chapters 8 and 9 (Crimes Against the State and Public Order, Criminal Defenses), Chapter 10 (Introduction to Criminal Procedure, Devil’s Knot Assignment 2 Due), Chapter 11 (Search and Seizure), Chapter 12 (Interrogation and Identification), Chapter 13 (Pre-Trial Procedure), Chapter 14 (Charging and Pleading, Devil’s Knot Assignment 4 Due), Chapter 15 (Trial and Beyond), and Case Presentations.

Students are expected to adhere to the policies of the County College of Morris. These can be accessed at: (insert link here)

Statement of Expected Course LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical and historical evolution of criminal law.
- Discuss and analyze the basic terminology, definitions, theories, classifications, and constitutional origin of criminal law.
- Formulate and employ research techniques in the study of case law.
- Critically analyze and evaluate the various components of the U.S. system of criminal law.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rules of evidence applied in a court of law.
- Analyze the nature of evidence, burden of proof, confessions, admissions and witnesses.
- Analyze judicial procedures of due process in a court of law to determine the best course of action.
- Employ specific testimony techniques necessary in a court of law to help the prosecution win a conviction.

Method of Instruction: The legal system is a field that impacts all of our lives, in many different and distinct ways. Therefore, all students should have thoughts and opinions about the material we will be discussing. Class sessions will be conducted in an open discussion style. All students are encouraged to offer input to all classes so we can benefit from the life experience and ideas that we possess.

However, the discussions are in no way intended to offend any of the participants. In the context of a Criminal Justice atmosphere, we may discuss topics which some find upsetting and offensive. Our discussion is meant only to educate and to provide information. Differences of opinion may arise. You are welcome to voice your opposition in a civil and courteous manner with those with whom you disagree, while at the same time respecting their right to hold their beliefs and opinions.

Failure to act in a civil and courteous manner and/or disruptive behavior, may result in the removal of a student.

Students always have the right to discretely speak to the instructor (in private) about a disruptive student.

Please check the class schedule and ensure that you read the appropriate chapter(s) relevant to the class so that we can discuss the issues set forth by each chapter.

Course Objectives: We will endeavor to work our way through the text, as well as supplemental materials, in an effort to gain a better understanding of pertinent court procedures, rules of evidence, selected federal and state court decisions as well as provide students with an overview of practical considerations of criminal law. We will attempt to do this in such a manner as to allow us to apply newly gained knowledge as we continue through the semester. We will work to improve your reading, writing, and critical thinking skills through the analysis and critique of current issues and trends in the field of criminal evidence and procedure.