CRIJ 1310
Fundamentals of Criminal Law

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Course Description/Overview

This course provides an overview of Texas Criminal Law. Students will develop a detailed understanding of the issues involved in policing a democratic society and will examine critical issues and new advances in law enforcement.

Required Materials


Supplemental Reading:

Texas Penal Code located at [http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/) This is the Texas Legislature’s website. Just click on the “Statutes” tab in the center column under “Additional Searches.” Next, select “Penal Code” and enter section.

The textbook and the instructional materials for this course are designed to help the student understand criminal law in Texas. The included Powerpoint and lecture note help summarize the material from each chapter. All reading material referenced in this course is required.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Technical skills and computer resources required for this course

As with all online courses, students must be able to operate a computer and have the necessary technical skills to navigate around a web page. Additional technical skills are not a prerequisite for this course, however your computer must meet certain [minimum requirements to operate Blackboard](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/).

You must have an adequate computer and internet connectivity in order to participate fully in the class. A table describing supported browsers can be viewed on [Blackboard's support site](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/).

Time spent on this course

Students can expect to spend a minimum of 10 hours per week to complete all the readings and assignments. The lessons themselves take as long as the student will require to read the materials and watch or listen to media presentations.
Course Objectives

As a result of completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the basic principles that underlie the Common Law system of substantive criminal law.
- Describe the basic principles that underlie the American system of substantive criminal law.
- Describe the process of filing criminal charges in the Texas justice system.
- List the role and jurisdictions of the various Texas criminal courts.
- State the elements of the primary state criminal offenses as defined by the Texas Penal Code.
- State the classification of Texas criminal offenses and their respective punishment levels.
- Discuss the primary excuses and justifications for criminal conduct permitted under Texas law.
- Analyze and explain how to apply the elements of Texas criminal offenses to hypothetical fact situations.

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a combination of quizzes and exams.

Grading Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Quizzes</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>The instructor requires students to take a set of lesson-based fundamental quizzes (all multiple choice questions) at the conclusion of the lecture by 11:59 pm for Module 1-7 on Sunday and Wednesday for Module 8.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>By Sunday 11:59 pm of Week 4, the students will be required to complete this 60 minute midterm exam. The total of 40 questions will cover the materials discussed over the course. The exam will have two sections included: (1) 30-item multiple choice section; and (2) 10-item true/false section.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (25%)</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>By Friday 11:59 pm of Week 8, the students will be required to complete this 60 minute midterm exam. The total of 40 questions will cover the materials discussed over the course. The exam will have two sections included: (1) 30-item multiple choice section; and (2) 10-item true/false section.</td>
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Grades

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:
Grade Cumulative Points

A  576 to 640 = 90 - 100 %
B  512 to 575 = 80 - 89 %
C  448 to 511 = 70 - 79 %
D  384 to 447 = 60 - 69 %
F  383 and below = 59 % and below

Final Exam

The comprehensive final exam will be available when course opens.

Course Organization:

Module 1:  Ch 1. Foundations of Criminal Law
            • 1st Lesson Test due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, ____________

Module 2:  Ch 2. Elements of a Crime
            • 2nd Lesson Test due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, ____________

Module 3:  Ch 3. The Criminal Law in Daily Practices
            Ch 4. Parties to Offenses
            • 3rd Lesson Test due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, ____________

Module 4:  Ch 5. Criminal Homicide
            • 4th Lesson Test and 1st Discussion Forum due by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, ____________

Midterm Exam  Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5
            The midterm exam will be posted on Friday, week 4
            Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, week 4

Module 5:  Ch 6. Assault and Sexual Assault
            • 5th Lesson Test due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, ____________

Module 6:  Ch 7. Kidnapping and Related Offenses
            Ch 8. Property Destruction Offenses
            • 6th Lesson Test due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, ____________

Module 7:  Ch 9. Theft, Fraud, and Related Offenses
            Ch 10. Robbery
            • 7th Lesson Test due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, ____________

Module 8:  Ch 11. Burglary and Criminal Trespass
            8th Lesson Test due by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, ____________

Final Exam  Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11

The final exam will be available when course opens.
Administration

Feedback

As the instructor of this course, it is my goal to respond to all communication within one working day. At a minimum, you can expect me to be actively engaged in this course during the stated office hours, and will strive to be responsive at other times as well. In addition, I will do my best to grade all writing assignments and provide feedback within 2 days of the due date for the assignment.

Attendance

This is an online course and attendance is not taken. However, failure to participate in the discussion board, to communicate or respond to e-mails from the professor, is an indication something is wrong. Therefore, we have made both a significant component of the course grade as an enticement to keep you engaged in the learning process. Failure to participate or communicate on the part of a student will result in an appropriate reduction of your grade and possibly in your failure of this course.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted. If your assignments are not submitted by the posted deadline, you will receive a zero for that assignment.

Incompletes

The University policy on grades of "Incomplete" is that the deficiency in performance must be addressed satisfactorily by the end of the next long (16 week) semester or the grade automatically becomes a "F". Grades of "Incomplete" will only be awarded to students who have demonstrated sufficient progress to earn the opportunity to complete the course outside of the normal course duration. The award of an "Incomplete" will only be made in rare circumstances, with the concurrence of the student and the professor on what specific tasks remain and when they are due for the grade to be changed to a higher grade. The determination of the need to award an "Incomplete" is entirely up to the professor's personal judgment.

Add/Drop dates

Students may add this course up to Friday of the first week of class.

Students may drop this course up to the 4th week of class as specified by the University Administration.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

Accommodations for Disability

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:

Office of Student Affairs
University Center, Suite 112
325-942-2047 Office
325-942-2211 FAX

Student absence for religious holidays

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.