

# CRIMINAL LAW I

CJS K211-T1



**Leslie W. Williams Jr.**  
**Three Rivers Community College**  
**Norwich, Connecticut, 06360**

**Spring Semester**  
**2015**

I. **COURSE TITLE:** Criminal Law I

II. **SPECIAL COURSE INFORMATION:**

A. Course Number: CJS K211 – T1 CRN #12007

B. Room Number: D-104

C. Semester Credit Hours: THREE (3)

D. Pre-requisites: "Introduction to Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice" (CJS K101) and "Composition" (ENG K101) must be taken prior to this course.

III. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course involves comprehensive study of sources, distinctions and limitations relating to criminal law; the development of criminal law in the United States; the principles of criminal liability; the various crimes and their elements; and the criteria considered in determining capacity and defenses. Connecticut Penal Code is used to relate Model Penal Code and Common Law materials specifically to Connecticut. Case studies and briefs are used to emphasize the acts, the mental state and the attendant circumstances that are necessary ingredients in proving crimes.

IV. **RATIONALE:**

State and federal statutes affecting conduct prior to birth and extending beyond death guide individual behavior. Individuals are held accountable for their behavior during every waking moment. A vast legal network that outlines "appropriate" behavior regulates our society. Laws, or codes of conduct have been developed to assure a more tranquil existence for all members of society. Although this course is required for criminal justice students, anyone majoring in business or social science will benefit from this course.

V. **GENERAL COURSE GOALS:**

A. Knowledge:

1. To develop an understanding of criminal law as set forth in the State's Penal code.
2. To develop an understanding of the importance of "elements" of an offense and the manner in which proof of these elements is established in court.
3. To develop an understanding of the historical background of criminal law and the basic elements of common law crimes.

V. (Continued)

B. Attitude and Skills:

1. To develop an awareness of the complexities involved in the criminal law process.
2. To identify elements of crimes and relate these to individual conduct of persons.
3. To appreciate the scope and purposes of the criminal law.
4. To appreciate the common defenses available to those charged with
5. To read case reports, briefs and answer specific questions concerning the Cases in writing. (Typewritten – single sided – #12 font – 1” margins – double line spacing – following the prescribed format provided).

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

Lectures, discussions, handouts, reading and writing assignments, class participation, case histories, written responses to discussion questions and visual aids, including PowerPoint©.

VII. **REQUIRED TEXT:**

**"Criminal Law"**, John C. Klotter Justice Administration Legal Series, by Joycelyn M. Pollock, Tenth Edition, and Anderson Publishing is an imprint of Elsevier, Waltham, MA (2013).

VIII. **EVALUATION PROCEDURE:**

- A. **Written Quizzes** - Three [3] objective tests will be given as follows:
1. Covering Chapters 1, 2, 4 and 3. On or about **March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, the **6<sup>th</sup> Session**.
  2. Covering Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8. On or about **April 14<sup>th</sup>**, the **11<sup>th</sup> Session**.
  3. Covering Chapters 10, 11, 12 and 15. On or about **May 5<sup>th</sup>**, The **14<sup>th</sup> Session**.
- B. **Case Reports** - Five [5] typewritten reports on cases assigned will be due as assigned. Late case reports ***will be docked 10 points*** for **EACH WEEK** they are late. ***30 points*** if you were in class when assignment was due.
- C. **Study Questions** - Five [5] typewritten reports on questions taken from designated text chapters as assigned in Session Outline. Late case reports ***will be docked 10 points*** for **EACH WEEK** they are late. ***30 points*** if you were in class when assignment was due.

**NOTE:** *Assignments may be e-mailed, however a hard copy of the e-mailed assignment **MUST be submitted at the next class session.***

VIII. (Con't)

D. **Grading Procedures** - Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| A = 94 to 100 | C+ = 77 to 79 |
| A- = 90 to 93 | C = 73 to 76  |
| B+ = 87 to 89 | C- = 70 to 72 |
| B = 83 to 86  | D+ = 65 to 69 |
| B- = 80 to 82 | D = 60 to 64  |
|               | F = Below 60  |

I = "Incomplete" - a temporary grade assigned to a student who does not complete the requirements of a course in the time allowed and who received a written time extension from the instructor. The I must be resolved by the end of the **10th week** of the next academic semester or it automatically converts to an **F**.

Withdrawal Policy = A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course **MUST** complete a **WITHDRAWAL** form in the Registrar's Office at the time of withdrawal. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten (10) weeks without being in good standing or obtaining prior permission of the instructor. After that period, a student wishing to withdraw must obtain written authorization of the instructor to receive a "W" grade for the course. Eligibility for refund of tuition is based upon date of withdrawal when received by the Registrar. Verbal withdrawals cannot be accepted.

E. **Final Grades** - will be determined as follows:

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 3 Quiz Grades - - - - -     | 48% [16% each]   |
| 5 Case Reports - - - - -    | 26% [ 5.2% each] |
| 5 Study Questions - - - - - | 26% [ 5.2% each] |
| <hr/>                       |                  |
| Total = 100%                |                  |

IX. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance is required at **ALL** class meetings. Absences will reflect in test grades as quiz questions are developed from the text and classroom presentations. Case reports and Study Questions are due as assigned and absences will NOT excuse late papers which will be docked 10 points as previously described.

X. **DISABILITIES STATEMENT:**

Students with learning disabilities or ADD/ADHD should contact Chris Scarborough at 860-215-9289. (Room A119D) Students with a physical, medical or psychiatric disability contacts Kathleen Gray at 860-215-9248 (Room A119C) or Matt Liscum at 860-215-9265 (Room A124).

XI **SESSION OUTLINE**

An outline is provided as a supplement to this syllabus that breaks down the material that is presented during each session. It also contains a list of handouts used during the session and homework assignments. The outlined will be referenced at the beginning of each class session as an overview of the material to be presented.

XII **LEARNING PORTFOLIO**

All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template.

**Student Centered Version:**

As a student you will maintain an online learning portfolio using a college-designed template in Digication. Through this electronic tool you will have the opportunity to monitor your own growth in college-wide learning. It may even help you determine a major that is best suited to you. You will be able to keep and maintain your learning portfolio after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. If your work is selected and reviewed for assessment purposes, it will remain anonymous and private. Digication provides a “place” where you will connect your learning from the classroom, college, and life in general. Sometimes when you review all of the work you have done and think about it, you end up learning something different and perhaps unexpected. Please review your course outlines to determine what assignments to upload into the TRCC Digication template and please post your own choices, as well. Have fun in learning!

(Digication provides ePortfolio and Assessment Management Systems for K-12 and Higher Education Institutions.)

<https://www.digication.com>

(Welcome to Digication, a new concept in educational software that is easy to master and simple to use. It has all the connectivity, file sharing and online publishing ...)

<depaul.digication.com>

## XI. SESSION OUTLINE

## Handout #1-3

The detailed session outline that follows should be used to guide your Notetaking, studying and reading assignments. It is **YOUR** responsibility to complete the assignments listed, and to ask for handouts that you may have missed.

| <u>SESSION</u>  | <u>CONTENT</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st.<br>1-27-15 | Instructor-Student Introductions; Student Information Sheets<br>Course Syllabus - Course Outline<br>Introduction to Criminal Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crime in the United States</li></ul> <p><b><u>HANDOUTS:</u></b> "Student Information Sheet" #1-1<br/>"Course Syllabus" #1-2<br/>"Course Outline" #1-3<br/>U.S. Leads The World in Crime #1-4</p> <p><b><u>ASSIGNMENT: Read</u></b> Chapter 1 – Text</p> |
| 2nd.<br>2-3-15  | <b>Chapter 1 – Defining Crime</b><br>Goals of a democracy<br>Branches of government and their role in the legal system<br>Sources of Law<br>Definition of "Common Law"<br>Limitations on criminal laws                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                 | <p><b><u>HANDOUTS:</u></b> "Capitall Lawes of the State of Connecticut - 1638" #2-1<br/>"Enactment and Requirements of Criminal Statutes" #2-2</p> <p><b><u>ASSIGNMENT: Read</u></b> Chapter 2 - Text<br/><b><u>Study Question</u></b> #1 – As provided in Handout #2-3</p>                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3rd.<br>2-10-15 | <b>Chapter 1 (Continued)</b><br>Crime Defined<br>Classification of crimes according to Nature, Degree and Punishment<br>Distinguish between crimes and torts<br>Burden of proof (criminal / civil)<br><b>Chapter 2 – Principles of Criminal Liability</b><br>Parties to a crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Principals</li><li>• Accomplices</li><li>• Accessories</li></ul> Criminal attempt; Conspiracy            |
|                 | <p><b><u>HANDOUTS:</u></b> "Classification of Crimes" #3-1<br/>"Case Report – Study Question – Format" #3-3</p> <p><b><u>ASSIGNMENT: Read</u></b> Chapter 4 – Text<br/><b><u>Case Report</u></b> #1 "Parties to a Crime" #3-2</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                |

- 4th Principles of Criminal Liability (Con't)
- Mens Rea
  - Actus Reus
  - Concurrence
  - Causation
- 2-17-15
- Chapter 4** – Preparatory Activity Crimes – Attempt and Conspiracy

**HANDOUTS:** “Degrees of Mental Fault” #4-1  
 “Proof of Cause or Causation” #4-2

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Chapter 3 - Text  
Case Report #2 “Criminal Liability” #4-3

- 5th **Chapter 3** – Capacity and Defenses
- Legal principles of Motive and Intent
  - Infancy or Immaturity
  - Mental Impairment
  - Duress or Compulsion
  - Self-Defense (Use of Force)
  - Entrapment
  - Ignorance or Mistake
  - Statute of Limitations
- 2-24-15

**HANDOUT:** "Use of Force" #5-1

**ASSIGNMENT:** Study for Quiz #1  
Read Chapter 5 - Text

6th \*\*\*\*\* 1st Quiz \*\*\*\*\*

- 3-3-15 **Chapter 5** - Offenses Against Persons (Excluding Sex Offenses)
- Homicide Defined
  - Types of homicide – Murder

**HANDOUT:** "Homicide Chart" #6-1  
 “Connecticut Homicide Statutes” #6-2

**ASSIGNMENT:** Case Reports #3 "The Doctrine of Transferred Intent" #6-3  
 #4 "Heat of Passion" #6-4

7th. Review 1st Quiz

- 3-10-15 Continue with Offenses Against Persons – Types of Homicide
- Capital Felony Murder
  - Felony Murder; Arson Murder
  - Manslaughter

**ASSIGNMENT:** Study Question #2 – Drop down box p.165 – Text  
 (State v. Thornton p.693)  
Case Report #5 "Consent/Assault" #7-2

8th. Continue with Offenses Against Persons  
3-24-15 • Voluntary Manslaughter  
• Involuntary Manslaughter  
• Motor Vehicle Manslaughter  
Connecticut Death Penalty Statute

**HANDOUTS:** "Connecticut Death Penalty Procedure" #8-1  
"Assault Definitions" #8-2

**ASSIGNMENT:** Study Question #3 – Questions p. 219 Drop down box  
(*Lawrence et al. v. Texas p. 710 – Text*)  
Read Chapters 6 - Text

9th Continue with Offenses Against Persons  
3-31-15 • Assault and Battery  
\* Threatening  
• Kidnapping and Related Offenses  
**Chapter 6** – Offenses Against Persons – Sex Related  
• Sexual Assault and other related offenses  
• Rape Shield Statutes

**HANDOUTS:** "Sexual Assault Definitions" #9-1  
"Sexual Assault Offenses" #9-2

**ASSIGNMENT:** Study Question #4 – Questions p. 291 Drop down box  
(*Lattimore v. United States p. 725 – Text*)  
Read Chapters 7 and 8 – Text

10th **Chapter 7** - Offenses Against Property – Destruction and Intrusion Offenses  
4-7-15 • Arson  
\* Criminal Mischief  
• Burglary  
• Criminal Trespass  
**Chapter 8** – Offenses Involving Theft  
• Robbery  
• Larceny  
• Embezzlement  
• Extortion  
• Receiving Stolen Property

**HANDOUTS:** "Burglary Definitions" #10-1  
"Larceny Statute" #10-2  
"Comparison of Burglary, Larceny and Robbery" #10-3

**ASSIGNMENT:** Study for Quiz #2  
Read Chapters 9 and 10 – Text



- 4-14-15 **Chapter 9** – Forgery and Other Fraud Offenses
- Forgery
  - Identity Theft
  - Computer Crimes
- Chapter 10** - Offenses Involving Morality and Decency
- Adultery and Fornication
  - Prostitution and Related Offenses
  - Obscenity
  - Abortion
- ASSIGNMENT: Read** Chapter 11 – Text

12th **Review 2nd Quiz**

- 4-21-15 **Chapter 11** - Offenses against the Public Peace
- Riot and Related Offenses
  - Disorderly Conduct – Breach of Peace
  - Vagrancy and Loitering
  - Drug Laws
  - Wiretapping and Eavesdropping

**HANDOUT:** “Breach, Stalking, Intimidation, Disorderly Conduct” #12-1

**ASSIGNMENT: Read** – Chapter 12 and 15  
**Study Question #5** – Briefly summarize the provisions of the following (*Environmental Laws*), (1) Clean Air Act; (2) Safe Drinking Water Act; (3) Clean Water Act; (4) Toxic Substance Control Act; (5) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

- 13th **Chapter 12** - Offenses Against Public Justice and Administration
- Perjury
- 4-28-15
- Bribery
  - Obstructing Justice
  - Escape
  - Resisting Arrest
- Chapter 15** – Corporate and Computer Crimes
- Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO)
  - Mail and Wire Fraud
  - Environmental Crimes

**ASSIGNMENT: Study** for Quiz #3

15th \*\*\*\*\* **3rd Quiz** \*\*\*\*\*  
 5-5-15

15th **Review Quiz #3**  
 5-12-15 Review Final Grade Tabulations  
 Instructor/Course Critique and Evaluation

L Leslie W. Williams Jr.  
 10 Duchess Drive  
 Old Lyme, CT. 06371  
 (H) 860-434-0753 (Eve)  
 (W) 860-887-1214 (Mon. – Thurs.)  
 e-mail: [lescsp20@snet.net](mailto:lescsp20@snet.net)