

CRIMINAL LAW I

CJS K211-T01



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Three Rivers Community College
Thames Campus, Norwich, Connecticut, 06360**

**Fall Semester
2008**

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

II. **SPECIAL COURSE INFORMATION:**

A. Course Number: CJS K211 – T01 CRN #30440

B. Room Number: KTHAM 222

C. Semester Credit Hours: THREE (3)

D. Pre-requisites: "Introduction to Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice" (CJS K111) 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:**

Individual behavior is guided by state and federal statutes affecting conduct prior to birth and extending beyond death. Individuals are held accountable for their behavior during every waking moment. Our society is regulated by a vast legal network that outlines "appropriate" behavior. 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. (Con't)

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 a crime.
5. To read case reports, briefs and answer specific questions concerning the cases in writing. (Typewritten)

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

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

VII. **REQUIRED TEXT:**

"Criminal Law", including *"Student Study Guide"* by John C. Klotter and Joycelyn M. Pollock, Eighth Edition, Matthew Bender & Company, a member of the LexisNexis Group, (2006).

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 **October 7th**, the **6th Session**.
2. Covering Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8. On or about **November 11th**, the **11th Session**.
3. Covering Chapters 10, 11, 12 and 15. On or about **December 9th** the **14th 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.

C. **Study Guide Questions** - Five [5] typewritten reports on questions taken from designated text chapters as assigned. Late case reports ***will be docked 10 points*** for **EACH WEEK** they are late.

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
I = "Incomplete"	
NC = "No Credit" (as outlined in the College Catalog)	

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. Students who do not withdraw, but stop attending class will be assigned an "NC" signifying No Credit. No credit grades count as courses attempted and may adversely affect the good standing status of the student receiving the grade. 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 - - - - -	60% [20% each]
5 Case Reports - - - - -	20% [4% each]
5 Study Guide Assignments - - - -	20% [4% each]
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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 Chapter Definitions are due as assigned and absences will NOT excuse late papers which will be docked 10 points as previously described.

X. **DISABILITIES STATEMENT:**

If you have a learning difference or a disability which may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please see me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please notify Mr. Cris Scarborough, Learning Specialist, at 892-5751, of your difference or disability also.