

Las Positas College  
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## Course Outline for AJ 60

### CRIMINAL LAW

Effective: Fall 2004

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 60 — CRIMINAL LAW — 3.00 units

Historical development, philosophy of law and constitutional provisions; definitions, classification of crime and their application to the system of administration of justice; frequently used Penal and other code sections; case law, methodology and concepts of law as a social force

3.00 Units Lecture

#### Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

#### Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

#### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

#### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

1. explain the cultural evolution of law;
2. discuss issues pertaining to the philosophical and historical development of law;
3. research assigned legal cases and analyze and prepare a case brief;
4. demonstrate basic legal research skill by synthesizing the facts of a given crime, researching the appropriate codes and statutes, and reducing the crime to reportable code(s), statute(s) and subsection(s);
5. satisfactorily complete the six parts of the legal case brief;
6. demonstrate the use of basic English grammatical rules in writing legal briefs;
7. discuss the classification of crimes, the principle of Corpus Delicti, and the capacity to commit a crime.

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. Philosophical and historical development
  1. General and specific sources of law
  2. Development of common law
  3. The concept of Stare Decisis
  4. Pre-emption
  5. Repeal
  6. Mala in Se vs. Mala prohibits crime
  7. Crimes without victims
  8. Federal constitutional provisions
  9. Police power
  10. Substantive vs. procedural law
- B. The nature of criminal law
  1. Definition of crime and criminal
  2. Conflicts between statutes
  3. Distinction between crimes and torts
  4. Criminal and civil liability
  5. Judicial review
- C. Case law
  1. Orientation to case citations
  2. Outline of the legal brief
  3. Use of the law library
  4. Attorney general opinions
- D. Classification of crimes
  1. Distinction between felonies, misdemeanors, and infractions
  2. Punishments
  3. Prior convictions
  4. Lesser and included offenses
  5. Double jeopardy

- E. Corpus Delicti – Elements of crime
  - 1. Role of corpus delicti
  - 2. Act and intent – negligence
  - 3. Proximate cause
  - 4. General intent
  - 5. Specific intent
  - 6. Transferred intent
- F. Capacity to commit crime
  - 1. Exemptions to criminal liability
  - 2. Diminished capacity
  - 3. Capital crimes
  - 4. Malice
  - 5. Motive
  - 6. Intoxication
  - 7. Parties to a crime
  - 8. Attempts
  - 9. Conspiracy
- G. Overview of specific crimes
  - 1. Crimes against the person and property
  - 2. Crimes against public decency, morality and the public peace
    - a. Historical development
    - b. Constitutionally related issues
    - c. Community standards
- H. Organization and operation of the correctional system
  - 1. Local, state and federal systems
  - 2. Probation and parole
- I. Research into specific case law and crimes
  - 1. Research methods and proper citations
  - 2. Preparation of a legal brief
  - 3. Issues involved in form, accuracy, and style

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Discussion** -
- B. Case studies of specific crimes and court decisions
- C. **Lecture** -
- D. Group work in writing and critiquing briefs
- E. Videotaped presentation of criminal cases for student analysis
- F. **Guest Lecturers** -

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Homework assignments answering chapter study questions
- B. Research assignment of court decisions applicable to a specific crime
- C. Construction of a legal brief
- D. Group research project and report on a particular crime

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
  - 1. Exams/Tests
  - 2. Quizzes
  - 3. Class Participation
- B. **Frequency**
  - 1. Attendance and participation are evaluated daily
  - 2. Individual report and midterm occur midway through the term
  - 3. Group report and final examination occur at end of term

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Payton, George *Peace Officer's Guide to Criminal Law.*, Criminal Justice Services, 0.
- 2. Scheb and Scheb *Criminal Law and Procedure.*, Thomson/Wadsworth Publishing, 0.
- 3. Chamelin *Criminal Law for Police Officers.*, Prentice Hall Publishing, 0.

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: