

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for AJ 60

CRIMINAL LAW

Effective: Spring 2019

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:

- Administration of Justice

| | MIN |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Lecture Hours: | 54.00 |
| Total Hours: | 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:

- Explain the cultural evolution of law
- Discuss issues pertaining to the philosophical and historical development of law
- Research assigned legal cases and analyze and prepare a case brief
- 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)
- Satisfactorily complete the six parts of the legal case brief
- Use basic English grammatical rules in writing legal briefs;
- Discuss the classification of crimes, the principle of Corpus Delicti, and the capacity to commit a crime

V. CONTENT:

- Philosophical and historical development
 - General and specific sources of law
 - Development of common law
 - The concept of Stare Decisis
 - Pre-emption
 - Repeal
 - Mala in Se vs. Mala prohibits crime
 - Crimes without victims
 - Federal constitutional provisions
 - Police power
 - Substantive vs. procedural law
- The nature of criminal law
 - Definition of crime and criminal
 - Conflicts between statutes
 - Distinction between crimes and torts
 - Criminal and civil liability
 - Judicial review
- Case law
 - Orientation to case citations
 - Outline of the legal brief
 - Use of the law library
 - Attorney general opinions
- Classification of crimes
 - Distinction between felonies, misdemeanors, and infractions
 - Punishments
 - Prior convictions
 - 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. **Guest Lecturers** -
- B. Group work in writing and critiquing briefs
- C. Videotaped presentation of criminal cases for student analysis
- D. **Discussion** -
- E. Case studies of specific crimes and court decisions
- F. **Lecture** -

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 from a contemporary or historical case study
- D. Group research project and report on a particular crime

VIII. EVALUATION:

Methods/Frequency

- A. Exams/Tests
 - Midterm and final exam.
- B. Quizzes
 - Periodic chapter and unannounced quizzes
- C. Class Participation
 - Oral reports on legal research
- D. Other
 - One individual written brief, oral and written presentation of group research project

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Hunt, D.D., & Rutledge, D. (2018). *California Criminal Law Concepts* (2018 ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.
- 2. State of California (2018). *California Penal Code* (2018 ed.). Eagan, MN: Thomson Reuters.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: