



Broward Community College

Course Outline

STATUS: A

COMMON COURSE NUMBER: CJL1100

COURSE TITLE: Criminal Law

CREDIT HOURS: 3

CONTACT HOURS BREAKDOWN:

Lecture/Discussion 48

Lab 00

Other 00

Contact Hours/Week 3

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisite: None

Corequisite: None

Courses will be concerned with the sources and elements of criminal law. Emphasis will be placed on criminal law as related to law enforcement officers with particular attention given to the rights and responsibilities of officers in enforcing various criminal laws.

General Education Requirements - Associate of Arts Degree, meets Area(s): 7

General Education Requirements - Associate in Science Degree, meets Area(s): 6

UNIT TITLES:

1. Historical Background and Fundamentals of Criminal Law.
2. Elements of Criminal Law
3. Crimes Against Property
4. Crimes Against Persons
5. Crimes Against Public Order
6. Criminal Responsibility

I. Course Overview:

Upon successful completion of this course, the students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the sources and elements of criminal law.

II. Units:

Unit 1. Historical Background and Fundamentals of Criminal Law

General Outcome:

- 1.0 The students should be able to recount the history and development of criminal law from English common law to criminal law as practiced today in the U.S. and demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of law as a means of social control.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 1.1 Discuss early development of criminal law and distinguish between the common law system and the civil law system.
- 1.2 Trace the development of criminal law in the U.S., including the general adoption of English common law, the effect of the U.S. Constitution, and the development of statutory law.
- 1.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of law as a means of social control designed to prevent conflict among individuals.
- 1.4 Demonstrate an understanding of basic ideas regarding law, including the concept of jurisdiction and that territorial jurisdiction, subject-matter jurisdiction and jurisdiction over the person are all needed for a court to function.

Unit 2. Elements of Criminal Law

General Outcome:

- 2.0 The students should be able to distinguish between criminal acts and criminal intent, understanding that both elements are required to convict a defendant of a crime.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 2.1 Demonstrate an understanding that every crime requires an act and that an act must proceed to a certain point before a person can be held criminally liable.
- 2.2 Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concept that a person is generally not held criminally liable for an act unless such act was intentional.
- 2.3 Recount and define the different levels of criminal intent, including specific intent, general intent, recklessness and negligence.
- 2.4 Discuss circumstances under which a person's criminal intent to commit act would be questioned, including issues of voluntariness, intoxication, and youth or mental deficiency of defendant.

Unit 3. Crimes Against Property

General Outcome:

- 3.0 The students should be able to demonstrate knowledge with the major crimes against property and the elements of each.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 3.1 Distinguish various types of theft and statutory developments in connection with theft and discuss problems of ownership, possession, custody and control.
- 3.2 Describe the common law crime of arson and statutory developments.
- 3.3 Trace the development of burglary from common law to the present, as well as statutory modifications, and understand problems of providing the essential elements of the crime.

Unit 4. Crimes Against the Person

General Outcome:

- 4.0 The students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of and distinguish among the major crimes against the person and the elements of each.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 4.1 Distinguish between justifiable and excusable homicide, and between murder, including felony murder, manslaughter, and vehicular homicides.
- 4.2 Distinguish between aggravated and simple assaults and batteries.
- 4.3 Identify the elements of robbery.
- 4.4 Distinguish between statutory and criminal rape.
- 4.5 Distinguish between kidnapping and false imprisonment.

Unit 5. Crimes Against Public Order

General Outcome:

5.0 The students should be able to distinguish the major crimes which affect public order, such as unlawful assembly, disorderly conduct, gambling and drug trafficking.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 5.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the difficulty of drawing the line between unlawful assembly, incitement to riot, and the right to free speech, and to what extent free speech can be regulated by government.
- 5.2 Explain what type of conduct constitutes a breach of the peace.
- 5.3 Identify the various forms of gambling punishable by law, such as bookmaking and lotteries, and the influence of organized crime on these activities.
- 5.4 Identify the significant provisions of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, and the influence of organized crime in drug trafficking.

Unit 6. Criminal Responsibility

General Outcome:

6.0 The students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of and distinguish among the various defenses used to claim lack of criminal responsibility. Such defenses include insanity, intoxication, infancy, self-defense, necessity, duress, entrapment and consent of alleged victim.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 6.1 Trace history and acceptance of the various legal standards used to determine insanity, including the M'Naghten test.
- 6.2 Describe under what circumstances intoxication is accepted as a defense, (self-induced vs. intoxication induced by others) and also discuss intoxication as a defense for a specific intent crime.
- 6.3 Discuss when self-defense can be raised in homicide and assault cases, consent as a defense in forcible rape cases, and duress and necessity as defenses.
- 6.4 Explain what elements are necessary to constitute entrapment.