SYLLABUS
CRIJ 1310-41500
Fundamentals of Criminal Law
FALL, 2019

Instructor: David J. MacDonald
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Email: DavidMacDonald@dcccd.edu. I usually check my emails once a day. If you email me and I do not reply within 48 hours please resend your email or email me at davidcops@msn.com.
Hours Available: By Appointment

SYLLABUS:
This is a required format for a syllabus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is the substantive criminal law which includes definition of law, definition of crime, general principals of criminal responsibility, elements of major crimes, punishments, and conditions or circumstances which may excuse from criminal responsibility or mitigate punishment. Particular emphasis is on the penal laws of the State of Texas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Acquaint the student with the basic principles that underlie the American system of criminal law.
2. Acquaint the student with the elements of the major criminal offenses using primarily the Texas Penal Code as illustration.
3. Improve student analytical and abstract thinking skills.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Develop an awareness of the philosophical and historical development of criminal law.
2. Become aware of the major definitions and concepts, classification and elements of criminal law.
3. Understand the process of filing criminal cases.
4. Be able to brief a criminal case.
5. Be able understand how a criminal law is developed and passed by the legislature.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENT ADVISORY:

Criminal Justice is not a politically correct discipline. The student will be exposed to many areas of criminal activity, both violent and non-violent. There is the possibility that this subject matter which may include videos could be offensive to some students. Criminal Justice students must realize that the world of crime and law enforcement is a different world. I will not sugar coat the subject. If any student has an issue with the various subjects that we will cover, please see me.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Because this class meets one night a week, during the first class meeting we will discuss and decide on an outline of the semester.

TEXTBOOK:


INTELLECTUAL OBJECTIVES:

1. Reading – the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed material at the college level.
2. Writing – the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose and adapted to purpose, occasion and audience – at the college level.
3. Critical Thinking – think and analyze at a critical level.

CERTIFICATION OF STUDENTS

Instructors are required to certify their classes by a specific date. This means that if a student does not attend classes the student will be listed as a no-show and will result in loss of financial aid. The certification date for this class is September 9, 2019.

FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS:

If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds. Failure to contact the instructor will result in your name being submitted to the Financial Aid Office as a “non-attendee”. All Students receiving financial aid must open an Email account through NetMail. See directions in this syllabus for opening an Email account.
EVALUATION PROCEDURES:

There will be five tests given including the final exam and briefing a court case. The lowest grade of one of the first four tests will be dropped. The briefing of a case will not be dropped. Testing will be multiple choice, true & false and essay. Material covered in the tests will come from the text book and lectures. Instructions on how to brief a case will be discussed in class. The students will be advised of test dates in class and the chapters covered. Grades will be as follows:

- **A** = 500 - 450 points
- **B** = 449 - 399 points
- **C** = 398 - 348 points
- **D** = 347 - 297 points
- **F** = 296 - 0 and below

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

**There are no make-up exams!!** If you miss an exam, that is the one that you will drop. If you miss two exams you should consult with me about the advisability of dropping the course.

INCOMPLETES:

Incompletes are only given in rare circumstances. It is the instructor’s decision to decide if an “I” is warranted. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor. To receive consideration for an “I”, you must have demonstrated a real attempt to complete the course.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT:

Students will attend class, be on time, and remain until class is dismissed. Six (6) absences and a student must withdraw from the course or receive an “F” for the performance grade. Withdrawing from the class is the student’s responsibility. If you name is on the grade roll at the end of the semester, you will receive a performance grade.

Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, all students are expected to be in class and prepared to begin on time. All pagers, wireless phones, electronic games are to be turned off when you enter the class room. Disruption of class, whether by latecomers, noisy devices or inconsiderate behavior will not be tolerated. **Disruption includes texting with phones.**

The use of tape recorders is not permitted in class.
DROP PROCEDURE:

If you are unable to complete the course for which you have registered, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally from the course. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually a grade of “F”. Your instructor no longer has the ability to drop you for non-attendance. That last day to drop is **NOVEMBER 14, 2019**.

STUDENT E-MAIL:

A student e-mail account is free. You may set one up by going to [www.dcccd.edu](http://www.dcccd.edu) and click on Student Services, Online Services, and Student NetMail. All students receiving financial aid must open a student NetMail account.

OBTAINING YOUR GRADES USING eCONNECT:

Final Grade Reports are no longer mailed. Convenient access is available online at [www.econnect.dcccd.edu](http://www.econnect.dcccd.edu). Use your identification number when you log onto eConnect, an online system developed by the DCCCD to provide you with timely information regarding your college record. Your grades will also be printed on your **Student Advising Report**, which is available in the Admissions Office.

PRINTING ON CAMPUS:

Printing in the Computer Lab (L108), Library, and Learning Assistance Center will cost 5 cents per page. Students must bring a $1.00, $5.00, $10.00 or $20.00 bill to the lab to create an account. Accounts must be created before attempting to print. No change is made in the lab. Once the money is in the bill acceptor, it cannot be retrieved. Cash refunds are not possible. Accounts stay active as long as the account has value.

TECHNOLOGY:

Assignments are **DUE** as outlined in to the course calendar. Waiting until the last minute can be as issues may arise with computers. Experiencing technological difficulties or not having access to a computer are not acceptable reasons for missing an assignment deadlines. Students should plan in advance to complete assignments utilizing resources available for them: for example a local library or the Eastfield College library and computer lab.

ADDITIONAL INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES


DCCCD Emergency Operating Procedures

[http://video.dcccd.edu/rtv/DO/emergency_dcccd.wmv](http://video.dcccd.edu/rtv/DO/emergency_dcccd.wmv)
THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND THIS SYLLABUS AS NECESSARY.