

SYLLABUS  
AJ 14 CONCEPTS OF CRIMINAL LAW

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of origins and limitations of criminal law, classifications of crimes, the development of criminal law in the United States, the principles of criminal law and criminal liability, the doctrine of complicity, the capacity and defenses, and the various types of crimes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the theories of criminal law.
2. Study the development of American criminal law and distinguish between common law crimes and statutory crimes.
3. Distinguish between torts and crimes.
4. Explain the general principles regarding criminal liability.
5. Describe the defenses available to those charged with criminal activity including justifications (e.g. necessity and self-defense) and excuses (e.g. entrapment, insanity and duress).
6. Define various types of crimes against persons and crimes against property.

TEXTBOOK:

Joel Samaha, Criminal Law, West Publishing Co., 2002.

GRADING SYSTEM:

1. **THREE EXAMINATIONS:**

There will be three required examinations in this class. The exams will consist of true-false and multiple choice questions. All three exams must be taken in order to pass the course. The three examinations are weighted equally.

First Midterm	30%
Second Midterm	30%
Final Examination	30%

Each exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. The scores of the three exams will be added together and then divided by three.

2. **CASE BRIEFS: 10%**

Each student is required to submit briefs of five cases that are assigned to the student. The FIVE briefs have to be typed and submitted ON MAY 15, 2002. Each student is also responsible for the oral presentations of the five assigned cases. The five briefs and oral presentations will contribute to a total of 10% of the final grade.

The final letter grade will be based on the following distribution:

A+ = 100-97,	A = 96-93,	A- = 92-90
B+ = 89-87,	B = 86-83,	B- = 82-80
C+ = 79-76,	C = 75-68,	C- = 67-65
D+ = 64-62,	D = 61-53,	D- = 52-50
and (F = 49-0 )		

3. **MAKE-UP EXAM:**

The department policy for make-up examinations will be followed. ONE make-up exam is allowed under extreme circumstances, only for students who have valid reasons. Permission to take a make-up examination has to be obtained prior to that particular exam. The student has to provide the proper documentation. This make-up examination must be taken during the last exam. No make-up exam will be given for the final exam.

4. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

Regular attendance is required. Students are expected to be prepared to discuss all of the cases. Excellence in class participation will result in extra credits for raising the exam letter grade by half a grade, e.g., from B+ to A-.

5. **EXTRA CREDIT REPORT:**

Students can submit an extra credit report to raise the exam letter grade by half a grade, e.g., from B+ to A-. The extra credit report is due on May 15, 2002.

The report can be an analysis and discussion of a current criminal case related to a topic of the course material. You need at least 3 different sources. The sources can be from magazine or newspaper articles and/or a video tape regarding the case. Your report should contain full references. A copy of the cited materials, including articles and/or video tapes, must be submitted with the extra credit report. The report should be three to five double-spaced typewritten pages.

The extra credit report can also be legal briefs of five cases from the last four chapters of the required textbook. You must choose from the cases that were not assigned to you.

TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

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| Week 1   | I. Introduction                                       |
| Week 2   | 1. Nature and Purposes of Criminal Law<br>Chapter 1   |
| Week 3,4 | 2. Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law<br>Chapter 2 |
|          | II. General Principles of Criminal Liability          |
| Week5    | 1. The Requirement of Action<br>Chapter 3             |

March 4

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**FIRST EXAMINATION -- GOOD LUCK !!!**  
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