SYLLABUS

Criminal Law 1
Spring 2016

Course Title: Criminal Law I
Course Prefix: CRJS  Course No.: 3623
CRN 23188
Section No.: P05

Department of  Justice Studies
College of  Juvenile Justice & Psychology

Instructor Name:  Dr. Mathai V Mathew, Esq.
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Mail Stop MS 2600
Prairie View, TX 77446

Office Hours:  Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to
11 am and 1 pm to 4 pm.

Course Location:  Don Clark room 235
Class Meeting Days & Times:  Monday, Wednesday & Friday 11 am 11:50 am.
(Power points are available in e-Courses).

Catalog Description:  CRJS 3623: Criminal Law I  Credit 3. A study of basic
principles of substantive criminal law which include
definitions of crimes against persons. Emphasis is on
the Texas Penal Code as it pertains to murder, capital
murder, voluntary homicide, criminal negligence,
homicide and sexual offenses.

Prerequisites:  CRJS 1133 – Principles of Criminal Justice

Required Text:  Criminal Law. 10th ed., Joycelyn M. Pollock. Anderson
Publishing.

Recommended Text/Readings:  Texas Penal Code (Internet)
Law Dictionary

Access to Learning Resources:
PVAMU Library:
phone: (936) 261-1500;
web: http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/
University Bookstore:
The Writing Center is in Hilliard Hall.
The Tutoring Center is on the second floor of the library.
Tutoring in criminal justice and statistics is available from Juvenile Justice doctoral students. Visit Don Clark room 342 for the times.

Course Goals or Overview:
The goal of this course is to familiarize criminal justice students with the basic principles of substantive Criminal Law in the United States. Students will focus specifically on crimes of person.

Course Outcomes/Objectives
At the end of this course, the student will
1. Understand the historical and philosophical development of American Criminal law
2. Understand the person offenses content of the Texas Penal Code and its everyday application
3. Understand the elements of person offenses under common law and the Model Penal Code
4. Understand the United States Criminal Code about offenses against persons and other offenses
5. Understand the courts role in the application of law
6. Understand how to think critically, and
7. Understand research methods and statistics

Student Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Learning Outcome #</th>
<th>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Understand the historical development of American Criminal law</td>
<td>1, 2, 3 Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Understand the person offenses content of the Texas Penal Code</td>
<td>1, 2, 3 Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Understand the elements of offense under common law and Model Penal Code</td>
<td>1, 2, 3 Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Understand the United States Criminal Code about offenses</td>
<td>1, 2, 3 Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Employ effective teamwork skills with emphasis on listening, responding, and creating a positive climate</td>
<td>4, 5 Teamwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Cite research correctly according to APA format, both in the text and in the bibliography.</td>
<td>4 Personal Responsibility</td>
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Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods
Given the compressed nature of this 16-weeks course sequence you must be extra focused and diligent.

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course:

Three exams (Exam I worth 25%; Exam II worth 26%; Exam III worth 27% of the final grade). Each exam will have approximately 40 questions (more if cumulative). The questions will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/ false, short answer and short essay items. It is most ill-advised to miss any of the exams! Make-ups will be given ONLY in instances of a documented emergency (i.e. death of someone close, hospitalization of oneself or one’s child, or a spouse (near death), surprise work audit, etc.). Expect such tests to be more challenging than regularly scheduled exams.
If most of the class does not pass an examination then the next examination will be cumulative (i.e. on old, plus new materials). The point is that you learn – if not sooner, later.

**Writing two case briefs. This is worth 12% of your final grade.** Each brief should be no more than 250 words or a page, typed, double-spaced and in APA format per the 6th edition of the manual. Use Microsoft Word. Note: Both case briefs are due on November 23rd in class. Points will be taken for late submission. The following must be submitted to receive credit: 1) a slip from the Writing Center in Hilliard Hall showing that you visited for consultation on improving your writing, 2) a copy of the typed case briefs that you took to the lab 3) a typed copy of the case briefs indicating your post-visit corrections. *The corrected case briefs must also be uploaded into a program yet to be announced.

As we discuss the cases in class throughout the semester, you will be called upon at any time to present a brief of one of the cases assigned to you (these cases are at the back of your text). Failure to do so satisfactorily or, an unexcused absence on that day will lead to a loss of two points from the final grade – each time that this occurs. The case brief must be from the text book and you need to write the name of the case and its number, facts of the case, legal issues in the case, decision by the court, and significance of the case in your case briefs.

**Participation in a legal issue debate presentation. Topics will be assigned - worth 10% of the final grade.** Please note: This is for a group grade. Thus, if someone in the group fails to pull his/her weight - first try to resolve this amongst yourselves. If this fails, then notify the instructor at least a week before the presentation date. Each member of the group must be present for the presentation itself. The presentation should be compelling as if attempting to convince the US Supreme Court or a jury about your position. While panel members may use cue cards, they will not be permitted to read their presentation or otherwise mercilessly bore the class to tears. Indubitably, a successful class presentation will require a series of rehearsals or meetings outside of class. It should be clear to all in attendance that you carefully researched and prepared your presentation. The presentation should be 10 minutes long:

Two minutes – Team One (clearly state an affirmative resolution; state each of your contentions; support with evidence, logic; conclude).

Two minutes- Team Two (clearly state a negative position on the topic; state each of your contentions; support with evidence, logic; conclude).

One minute - Team One rebuttal.

One minute – Team Two rebuttal.

Professional attire required.

**Professional attire** (that is, conservative clothing and appearance appropriate for an interview for a criminal justice job - such as a dark colored suit) is required for the presentation.

For starters:

Women: Dark colored suits- blue, black, gray (skirts or pants); closed toe pumps, stockings (no mesh); no chipped nail polish, nor nails that look like claws, no dangling earrings, no visible tattoos, no visible body piercings besides the ear, no gold tooth cap in the front of the mouth, skirts should not be shorter than the span of your arms, nor too tight; no cleavage, hairdo should be neat and not overly creative; minimize the number of accessories.

Men: Dark colored suit – navy or black preferred (no zoot suits); dress shoes and socks; dress pants (no khaki); white shirt (or other non-bright color shirt – without patterns and well-coordinated with the choice of pants), and a tie; no earring(s); no visible tattoos; no visible body piercings; no gold tooth cap in the front of the mouth; hair and face neatly groomed (no braids; no pony tails; no flowing locks; no dreadlocks except with a religious excuse).

Attire is calculated into your presentation grade. You have been given this sheet prior to your presentation date. Therefore NO excuses about attire will be accepted!
Grading Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Value (points or percentages)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination I</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination II</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination III</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two case briefs</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal debate</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade Determination:
A = 100 – 90pts;
B = 89 – 80pts;
C = 79 – 70pts;
D = 69 – 60pts;
F = 59 pts or below

Course Procedures
NOTE: Syllabi subject to change with advance notice.
Tardiness and absenteeism are NOT encouraged a considerable amount of information will be covered each week. Of course, classes will begin on time. If for some reason you will be absent for more than one class during the semester, call the instructor to let her know. YOU are responsible for materials covered in any classes that you miss. The instructor will be available for clarification on lecture materials. Please see the latest version of the undergraduate handbook for the university attendance policy.
Expect no extra credit assignments. With instructor approval, attending a lecture on campus that is relevant to the course or spending at least a half a day in court observing the proceedings may earn you points toward your final grade (submit proof of attendance, e.g. program and, or summary of the event).
Late assignments are discouraged and may result in a grade penalty.

Incomplete grades are rarely given. Please see the university handbook for the university policy on the assignment of “Incomplete” grades. NOTE: Students who have a failing average in a course cannot receive an incomplete grade.

Academic Misconduct: (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) [see Student Handbook] will not be tolerated!!! Anyone caught engaging in any such activities will receive a grade of F for the course. Criminal Justice demands persons of impeccable integrity.

* If you encounter problems in meeting any of these requirements, do not hesitate to utilize my office hours.

Submission of Assignments:
NOTE: If e-mail submissions of assignments are not acknowledged - do not assume that they were received. All work submitted and presented should demonstrate thorough preparation, practice and sound thought of a superior level. Such being the case we should all learn from each other.

Formatting Documents:
Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you are using other word processors, be sure to use the “save as” tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format.
The format for the case briefs will be disseminated.
Professional Organizations and Journals
Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice
American Society of Criminology
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

16 WEEK CALENDAR

Week One: Jan. 20 & 22: Introductions; review of the syllabus; defining crime; elements of a crime; criminal liability.
Chapter 1: Defining Crime.

Week Two: Jan. 25, 27 & 29: Chapter 2: Principles of Criminal Liability

Week Three: Feb 1, 3 & 5: Chapter 3: Capacity and Defenses. Incapacity; justifications; partial and full excuses; inchoate offenses
Assignment: Begin work on debate
Topics for legal debate will be announced in the class.

Week Four: Feb 8, 10 & 12: Chapter 4: Preparatory Activity Offenses.

Examination I: Friday, February 12th

Week Five: Feb 15, 17 & 19: Chapter 5: Offenses Against Persons - Excluding Sex Offenses. Offenses against persons – excluding sex offenses
Offenses against persons – sex related; The Texas Penal Code.

Week Six: Feb 22, 24 & 26: Chapter 6: Offenses against Persons-Sex related.

Week Seven: Feb 29, March 2 & 4: Chapter 7: Offenses against property- Destruction and Intrusion Offenses.

Week Eight: Mar 7, 9 & 11: Chapter 8: Offenses Involving Theft and Deception.

Examination 11: Friday, March 11th

Week Nine: Mar 14, 16 & 18: Spring Break

Week Ten: Mar 21, 23 & 25: Chapter 9 & 10: Offenses Involving Morality and Decency and Offenses against Public Peace
Good Friday student Holiday on 25

Week Eleven: Mar 28, 30 & Apr 1: Chapter 11: Offenses against Justice Administration
Case briefs first draft due on April 1st

Week Twelve: Apr 4, 6 & 8 : Chapter 12: United States Criminal Code; Offenses against Persons and Property.

Week Thirteen: Apr 11, 13 & 15: Chapter 13: United States Criminal Code: Other Offenses

Week Fourteen: Apr 18, 20 & 22: Legal Debate on the topics assigned. Case briefs final submission due on April 22nd

Week Fifteen: Apr 25, 27 & 29: Legal Debate

Week Sixteen: May 2, 4 & 6: Legal Debate, Review and Final Examination
University Rules and Procedures

Disability statement (See Student Handbook):
Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class, should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):
You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.

2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.

3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.

4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook):
The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):
Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy:
Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class.

Student Academic Appeals Process:
Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor’s assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.
Department Policy on Mobile Devices and Technology

It is imperative that instructors be afforded reasonable authority to manage the classroom learning environment. An important component of management of the classroom environment is control of topic and pedagogical method. Empirical data shows that student use of mobile devices and other forms of technology that are not approved by the instructor for the educational endeavor of interest serve as distractors to student attention. When students attempt to divide their time between paying attention to the classroom topic and/or pedagogical method used by the instructor and the use of a mobile device, the student may miss important course content or details. Unsanctioned use of mobile devices or technology by a student may also serve as a substantial distraction to other students enrolled in the course.

It is the policy of the Department of Justice Studies that during examinations no mobile device or other form of technology be placed in the student's work area, visible by the student, or within an arms length reach of the student. It is also the policy of the department that unsanctioned student use (use that is not approved of by the instructor of record and/or is unrelated to classroom activities) of mobile devices and/or other technological devices during classroom activity (defined here as activity occurring during the time that class is scheduled to meet) is strictly prohibited. It is within the scope of the instructor's authority to, over the course of the semester, demand that mobile devices and/or other technological devices be turned completely off and stored away. This is a broad policy statement. The instructor of record may and is encouraged to further elaborate his or her own course-specific mobile device policies in writing in the course syllabus.