Course Title: Criminal Law I

Course Prefix: CRJS  
Course No.: 3623  
Section No.: P04 Summer II 2020 Z01

CRN 33008

Department of | Justice Studies | College of | Juvenile Justice & Psychology

Instructor Name: Sesa Kethineni, Ph.D., LL.M.
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P.O. Box 519  
Mail Stop MS 2600  
Prairie View, TX 77446

Office Hours: Virtual Hours 9:00-12:00 Mondays or available through email: srkethineni@pvamu.edu
Course Location: Don Clark room 235
Class Meeting Days & Times: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. (notes and videos available in eCourses).

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


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:  
phone: (936) 261-1990;  
web: https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d
The Writing Center
The Tutoring Center

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

- be able to describe the historical and philosophical development of American Criminal law {critical thinking; social responsibility} – as indicated by items on examinations.
- be able to describe the person offenses content of the Texas Penal Code and its everyday application {quantitative and empirical skills} – as indicated by examination items.
be able to identify the elements of person offenses under common law and the Model Penal Code (critical thinking and communication) – as indicated by case briefs
be familiar with the Constitutional limitations imposed on American Criminal Law (critical thinking; communication)- as indicated by debate presentations.

Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

Given the compressed nature of this 5-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 (each worth 25% of the final grade). Each exam will have approximately 25 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. Please check the due dates.

Writing two case briefs. This is worth 10% 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 7th edition of the manual. Use Microsoft Word. Note: Both case briefs are due on or before Friday of the week that is by 11:55 p.m. Failure to do so satisfactorily or, an or submit on time will lead to a loss 5 points.

Participation in a legal issue discussion. Topics will be assigned - worth 15% of the final grade. The discussion should be thorough and request others in the class to comment on the topic. At least two people must comment in order for the student to get full points. Note: Discussion/Debate are due Friday of the week assigned by 11:55 p.m.

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>25</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination III</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two case briefs</td>
<td>5 x 5 = 10</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal debate</td>
<td>5 x 3 =15</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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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 late submission are NOT encouraged as considerable amount of information will be covered each week. YOU are responsible for materials posted on each week. The instructor will be available for clarification on lecture materials via zoom. Students should request a zoom meeting. Please see the latest version of the undergraduate handbook for the university attendance policy.

Expect no extra credit assignments.
Late assignments are discouraged and may result in a grade penalty.
Incompletes 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. Anyone with a live phone or other electronic device during an examination will be assumed to be cheating and receive an "F" for the course. Accessing an examination during testing time on eCourses outside of the classroom is cheating and will result in a “F” for the course. Criminal Justice demands persons of impeccable integrity.

Submission of Assignments:
NOTE: If e-mail submissions of assignments are not acknowledged - do not assume that they were received. All assignments must be submitted via eCourses.
All work submitted and presented should demonstrate thorough preparation, practice and sound thought of a superior level.

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.
* If you encounter problems in meeting any of these requirements, do not hesitate to contact me.

Professional Organizations and Journals
Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice
American Society of Criminology
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Course Procedures and Additional Policies

All case briefs will be submitted via Turnitin link available on eCourse. Be advised that this program provides information on unlisted sources, and similarity scores (double submission) among other features of the system. That means you must list all sources used.

Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. At least one of your assignments is REQUIRED to be submitted as an “artifact,” an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

Submission of Assignments: Assignments, Papers, Exercises, and Projects will be distributed and submitted through your online course. Your online course page is very easy to follow, generally everything is posted under particular weeks. Additional assistance can be obtained from the Office of Distance Learning.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.

A final note on course requirements: All students are expected to keep up with the course material. At least three times students should be prepared to participate in discussions about posted discussion topic. More generally, I expect and hope that you will use the discussions as an opportunity both to learn the material better and to help other students glean insights from the readings.

Communication Expectations and Standards:
All emails or questions will receive a response from the instructor within 48 hours. Emails that I receive on Friday will be responded to by the close of business on the following Monday.

Course Expectations:
Weekly work & attendance: You are responsible for materials assigned each week. All scheduled work is due when assigned (consult syllabus). The instructor will not accept past due work.

Exams: The final exam will be taken as scheduled by the University. Emergencies must be documented, and the instructor reserves the right to reschedule based on extenuating circumstances.

Assigned Readings: There should be no question as to the importance of the readings. Web classes are built upon knowledge and insights of all participants – those who do not participate thereby deprive the group (and risk earning lower grades). Each student is expected to read all assigned materials and students are expected to share their insights with the class. In addition, discussion should point to the readings and materials, unsupported opinions and endless personal experience points or distractions that are not meritorious should be avoided. It is acceptable to make connections with other courses and readings that supplement the readings.

Courtesy: Students are asked to show courtesy, respect and support for the instructor and fellow classmates. The forum will be one of respect for every point of view, we are all educated and as a result our points of view should have some valid foundation and frame of reference.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask. You can always contact me through the eCourse “Mail” module; but if there is ever any confusion, you may reach me through my regular PV e-mail address, at srkethineni@pvamu.edu. Good luck and I hope that you enjoy the class!

5-WEEK CALENDAR

Week One: Introductions; review of the syllabus; defining crime; elements of a crime; criminal liability.

  Chapter 1: Defining Crime.
  Chapter 2: Principles of Criminal Liability

Discussion 1: July 3rd

Week Two: Incapacity; justifications; partial and full excuses; inchoate offenses.  
  Chapter 3: Capacity and Defenses.
  Chapter 4: Preparatory Activity Offenses.

Assignment 1: Case Brief 1: Due Friday July 10th
Examination I: Friday July 10th

Week Three: Offenses against persons – excluding sex offenses.  
  Chapter 5 and 6: Offenses Against Persons
  Chapter 7 and 8: Offenses against property, including destruction, intrusion, theft and deception

Discussion 2: Due Friday July 17th
Assignment 2: Due Friday July 17th

Week Four: Offenses involving Morality and Decency  
  Chapter 9 Offenses against Morality and Decency

Examination II: Friday July 24th

Week Five: Offenses Against Public Peace  
  Chapter 10: Offenses Against Public Peace
  Chapter 11: Offenses Against Justice Administration

Discussion 3: Due Friday July 31st
Final examination- August 4th Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>Priority Deadline to Submit Financial Aid Verification Documents for Summer 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 27 - May 01</td>
<td>Priority Registration for all students Begins for the Summer and Fall Semesters</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Memorial Day Holiday (University Closed)</td>
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<td>May 29</td>
<td>Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Appeal Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 26</td>
<td>Final Date to Apply for Summer 2020 Graduation (ceremony participation)</td>
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<td>Jun 30</td>
<td>First Class Day</td>
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<td>Jun 30 - Jul 09</td>
<td>Attendance Reporting Period. Students who do not attend class during this period will have their courses removed and Financial Aid reduced or cancelled.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 30 - Jul 02</td>
<td>Late Registration- Late Fee Applies ($50.00)- Summer 2020 2nd 5-week session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 01</td>
<td>Application for Graduation-Degree Conferral only for Summer 2020 Graduation Begins (no ceremony participation or listing in the program)</td>
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<td>Jul 03</td>
<td>4th Class Day (Census Date)</td>
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<td>Jul 03</td>
<td>Final Day to Drop/Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record (A Financial Record will still exist)</td>
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<td>Jul 06</td>
<td>Withdrawal from Courses with Academic Records (“W”) Begins</td>
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<td>Jul 14</td>
<td>Financial Aid Refunds Begin- Summer 2020 2nd 5-week session</td>
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<td>Jul 14</td>
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<td>Jul 23</td>
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**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.