

# Lassen Community College Course Outline

## AJ-20 Criminal Law

3.0 Units

### I. Catalog Description

This course offers an overview of the origin and development of law, including English Common Law. It provides an analysis of the doctrines of criminal liability in the United States and the classification of crimes against persons, property, morals, and public welfare. The distinction between torts and crimes, felonies and misdemeanors, and venue and jurisdiction will be examined. Crimes against persons and property and crimes popularly deemed to be victimless will be discussed. This course utilizes case law and case studies to introduce students to criminal law. This course has been approved for hybrid and online delivery. This course uses an Open Educational Resource Textbook.

**Recommended Preparation:** Successful completion of ENGL105 or equivalent multiple measures placement.

Transfers to both UC/CSU

General Education Area: B

CSU GE Area: D8

*C-ID AJ 120*

51 Hours Lecture, 102 Expected Outside Class Hours, 153 Total Student Learning Hours  
Scheduled: Fall, Spring

### II. Coding Information

Repeatability: Not Repeatable, Take 1 Time

Grading Option: Graded or Pass/No Pass

Credit Type: Credit - Degree Applicable

TOP Code: 210500

### III. Course Objectives

#### A. Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Explain the adversary system and sources of criminal law.
2. Identify elements of offenses including crimes against property, crimes against persons, crimes against the state, and social crimes.
3. Identify the historical origins of American Criminal Law.
4. Appraise the value of landmark case decisions and synthesize the impact on modern society.

#### B. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Distinguish between torts (civil wrongs) and crimes.
2. Identify the many types of criminal conduct by crime classifications such as: infraction, misdemeanor, felony, etc.
3. Discuss the goals and characteristics of criminal law.
4. Know the basic terminology, definitions, and theories of criminal law.
5. Explain the concept of lesser included offenses.

6. Explain capacity to commit crime, causation, and culpability.
7. Explain and discuss criminal defenses, legal justifications, and burdens of proof.

#### **IV. Course Content**

- A. Historical Background of Criminal Law
  1. Origins of American Criminal Law
  2. Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure
  3. Civil Law and Criminal Law
  
- B. Fundamentals of the Adversarial System
  1. Federalism
  2. Branches of Government
  3. Sources of Law
  4. Criminal Law Classifications
  5. Criminal Court System
  6. Level and Burdon of Proof
  
- C. Constitutional Protections
  1. First Amendment
  2. Second Amendment
  3. Fourth Amendment
  4. Fifth Amendment
  5. Sixth Amendment
  6. Eighth Amendment
  7. Fourteenth Amendment
  
- D. Offense Classifications and Elements
  1. Parties to Crimes
  2. Attempts, Conspiracy, and Solicitation
  3. Crimes Against Persons
  4. Property Crimes
  5. Social Crimes
  6. Crimes Against the Government
  
- E. Criminal Defenses and Justifications
  1. Use of Force
  2. Self Defense
  3. Stand Your Ground Laws
  4. Insanity Defense
  5. Intoxication, Ignorance, and Mistake
  6. Entrapment

#### **V. Assignments**

##### **A. Appropriate Readings**

This course will involve extensive reading beyond assignments in the text. Students should read and respond to readings such as legal briefs, case law, administrative code, and regulations.

##### **B. Writing Assignments**

1. Answer to essay questions.

2. Short papers covering administration of justice topics.

**C. Expected Outside Assignments**

Visit to or online research of court and law enforcement agency, write a review of visits and file a report of visits.

**D. Specific Assignments that Demonstrate Critical Thinking**

During this course, students should be required to complete writing assignments that include the gathering, analysis, and synthesis of information. In addition, examination questions will require students to examine facts, spot issues related to the charging, prosecution and defense of criminal law violation problems, and develop viable strategies for adjudication and sentencing.

**VI. Methods of Evaluation**

**Traditional Classroom Delivery**

Students will be evaluated through objective and subjective examinations/quizzes, case analysis, projects, homework assignments and/or in class exercises/presentations.

**Online Delivery**

Same as face-to-face instruction including a variety of evaluation methods such as: research papers, asynchronous and synchronous discussions (chat/forum), exercises/assignments, online quizzes and exams, and postings to online website.

**Hybrid Delivery**

All quizzes and exams will be administered during the in person class time. Students will be expected to complete online assignments and activities equivalent to in class assignments and activities for the online portion of the course. Electronic communication, both synchronous and asynchronous will be evaluated for participation and to maintain effective communication between instructor and students.

**VII. Methods of Delivery**

Check those delivery methods for which, this course has been separately approved by the Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee.

Traditional Classroom Delivery     Correspondence Delivery

Hybrid Delivery                                     Online Delivery

**Traditional Classroom Instruction**

Instructors are encouraged to include the following activities in their instructional presentations, as deemed appropriate, in addition to lecture:

1. Video material
2. Scenario/experiential training
3. Guest presentations
4. Group/individual presentations
5. Written examinations - objective
6. Written examinations - essay
7. Internet research demonstrations

**Online Delivery**

Online instruction will be utilized. 51 hours will be instructed online through the technology platform adopted by the District. Online delivery will consist of

participation in forum-based discussions and posts, web links, email communications, lecture posts, exams and online lectures. Adding extra resources and other media sources as appropriate.

### **Hybrid Delivery**

A combination of traditional classroom and online instruction will be utilized. Each semester a minimum of 17 hours, or 1/3 of the lecture hours, will be taught face-to-face by the instructor and the remaining hours will be instructed online through the technology platform adopted by the District. Traditional class instruction will consist of exercises/assignments, lectures, visual aids, and practice exercises. Online delivery will consist of exercises/assignments, lecture posts, discussions, adding extra resources and other media sources as appropriate.

## **VIII. Representative Texts and Supplies**

Open Educational Resource Textbook (OER): *Criminal Law*, University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing, (2021), Available free in Canvas class, when class is offered online or hybrid, or through link at: <https://open.lib.umn.edu/criminallaw/>

## **IX. Discipline/s Assignment**

Administration of Justice, Law

## **X. Course Status**

Current Status: Active

Original Approval Date: 4/3/1990

Revised By: Thomas Downing

Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee Revision Date: 01/17/2023