

Fundamentals of Law
CJ 2321
10:00-10:50 MWF
MAB 107

Instructor: Liza Ware
Office Hours: Mon., Tues., & Thurs. 2pm – 4pm or by appointment
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Book: *Criminal Law: model problems and outstanding answers*
ISBN: 978-0-19-539177-0
Authors: Kathryn Christopher and Russell Christopher

Course Description: This course is designed to teach students basic knowledge of terms and cases that are pertinent to the study of criminal law.

Grading: Vocabulary test: 20%, Assignments: 20%
Chapter quizzes: 20%, midterm exam 20%, final exam 20%

*Vocabulary test will be *pop quizzes* spelling and/or definitions*
Chapter quizzes will be administered after we have completed the chapter
Assignments will be given in class

Cheating and Plagiarism: Students are expected to do their own work on all tests and papers. Cheating on tests and plagiarism on assignments will result in a grade of “F” on that part of the course, a possible grade of “F” for the entire course, and possible recommendation for suspension from the university.

Plagiarism consists of presenting the work of another as one’s own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source) and submitting examinations or other work in whole or in part as one’s own when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person (see the Student Handbook).

Attendance:

The Department of Criminal Justice feels very strongly that class attendance is a direct predictor of student classroom success. Therefore, the faculty of the CJ department as a group will enforce the following student attendance policy. This policy does not supersede the SRSU policy on student attendance; it simply reinforces those stated goals. Criminal justice faculty will take class attendance. In accordance with current SRSU policy, when a student misses a total of 9 hours of class, the presumption is that the student will be dropped from that class with an “F”. Students who violate the SRSU attendance policy may also find that they are ineligible for any extra credit or any discretionary grading curve applied to any or all exams for that course/semester. It

should also be noted that it is the **student's responsibility** to inform the instructor prior to any University event that would cause an absence. Failure of the student to inform the instructor will result in that absence being recorded as **unexcused**. Attendance is important! Attendance demonstrates maturity, responsibility and a serious attitude toward education. Many times students wish letters of recommendation from their instructors. Prospective employers or graduate programs are all interested in a student's class attendance record. Additionally, instructors seldom teach only from the book. Missing a class (even an excused absence) will put you at a disadvantage for all of the materials covered when you were absent such as films, presentations, and guest lectures which cannot be made up.

Attendance will be taken daily and absences cannot be made up. Students should be in class **on time** and should be prepared to stay for the entire class period. Students who are late will not be counted as attending if attendance has already been taken.

Class Participation:

Students are encouraged to ask questions and express opinions, however, talking among students and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. You may bring beverages to class with you, but not food. Reading outside materials such as newspapers or other course work is not permitted during class time. Students should be prepared to engage in discussion over the assigned readings, and for possible pop quizzes.

Turn off all cell phones, headphones/I-pods etc...

Any student needing special assistance on any aspect of the class needs to see the instructor immediately.

Qualified students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations to ensure full participation in the programs, services and activities at Sul Ross State University should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, in Counseling and Prevention Services, Ferguson Hall 112, Box C-117, (837-8203).

Tentative schedule/plan for class; the Professor reserves the right to change whatever she feels is necessary.

Week 1- Begin Chapter 1~ Actus Reus: Act & Omissions

Introduction/expectations

Week 2- Mens Rea

Week 3- Mistake of Fact

Week 4- Mistake of Law

Week 5- Causation

Week 6- Homicide I: Murder and manslaughter

Week 7- Homicide II: Provocation & extreme Mental or Emotional Disturbance

Week 8- Homicide III: Felony Murder and Misdemeanor Manslaughter

Midterm exam date TBA

Week 9- **Spring Break Enjoy and be Safe!**

Week 10- Rape I: Rape by Force or threat of Force

Week 11- Rape II: Rape by Coercion and Fraud

Week 12- Self-Defense and Defense of others

Week 13- Necessity and Duress

Week 14- Mental Impairment Defenses: Diminished Capacity, Intoxication, and Insanity

Week 15- Burden of Proof

Week 16- Attempt

Last day for students to drop class 4/08/15

Dead days May 5 & 6

Week 17 – Final exams

We will try to get as much information in as possible; we may cover all the chapters listed and move forward with the remaining chapters.

Criminal Justice Undergraduate Program Learning Objectives (PLOs)

PLO 1. Demonstrated knowledge of specific areas of the U.S. Constitution as it relates to specific legal liabilities of criminal justice professionals. The ability to identify, assess, and compare Constitutional protections and individual rights and recognize violations of those Rights. Workable knowledge of the most significant legal challenges to criminal justice policy and the resulting changes to those policies.

PLO 2. Demonstrate knowledge of Criminological theories, and apply those theories to practical criminal justice events. The ability to identifying a prominent criminological theory within an actual criminal event or simulated criminal event. The ability to compare and contrast the basic concepts of the differing competing Criminological Theories.

PLO 3. Working knowledge of the specific language of the Criminal Justice and the ability to identify the individual parts of the CJ System. An awareness of the costs associated with the Criminal Justice System, and the ability to recognize and be aware of political influence on the system. The ability to apply historical knowledge of the CJ system and recognize patterns of system change.