Course Description: This course examines sources of criminal law; theories of punishment, corpus delicti, and basic elements of crime; specific offenses, principles of liability to punishment, and specific defense to criminal behavior.


Assignments: The reading material for each lecture is expected to be completed prior to the scheduled lecture. The presentation for each lecture will also be posted on Blackboard prior to the lecture so each student may print the material to assist during note taking.

Attendance: Students are strongly discouraged from missing class because the amount of material covered each lecture is extensive and the nature of the curriculum is necessary to build a foundation for further study in Criminal Justice.

Midterm Exam: There will be one midterm exam during the semester worth 100 points. In addition, during the class lectures, students will be called upon to answer questions and are encouraged to ask questions.

Final Examination: The exam will be worth 150 points. There will be no make-up final exams.

Make-up Exams: Any student wishing to schedule a make-up midterm exam must contact the instructor PRIOR to the regularly scheduled exam time. Students may telephone, e-mail, or leave a written message for the instructor. Make-up exams will be scheduled for any student failing to make contact prior to the regular exam time and date at the instructor’s discretion.
**Grading:** Grades will be calculated based on a points scale. There will be no curving of grades.

Midterm Exam: 100 points  
Final Exam: 150 points  
Total: 250 points

90 - 100% A  
80 - 89% B  
70 - 79% C  
60 – 69% D  
59% - below F

**Honesty/Integrity:** According to University Policy, Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1
Chapter 1: The Nature and Limits of Criminal Law in U.S. Society

Week 2
Chapter 3: The General Principles of Criminal Liability: Actus Reus

Week 3
Chapter 4: The General Principles of Criminal Liability: Mens Rea, Concurrence, and Causation

Week 4
Chapter 9: Crimes Against Persons I: Criminal Homicide
Pick-up Midterm Exams (take-home)

Week 5
Chapter 10: Crimes Against Persons II: Criminal Sexual Conduct, Bodily Injury, and Personal Restraint

Week 6
Chapter 11: Crimes Against Property

Week 7
Chapter 8: Inchoate Crimes: Attempt, Conspiracy, and Solicitation

Week 8
Chapter 5: Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications
Chapter 6: Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuse
Pick-up Final Exams (take-home)
**Class Conduct:**

Academic study rests on principles of respect for people, their ideas, and their right to learn. Behavior that is rude, disrespectful, or disruptive not only violates school rules, but also violates individual dignity and interferes with the educational process. Please turn off cellular telephones and pagers before class begins. If you work at a profession that requires you to keep your beeper or phone on please sit near the door. If you receive a call please take and complete the call in the hallway. Since universities rely on individual honesty and integrity, misdeeds such as cheating or plagiarism cannot be tolerated. Please do not do something that will sully the semester for you. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an ‘F’ for the course.

**Statement on Incomplete Grades:**

Grades of “I” (incomplete) change to “F” automatically if the course is not completed and the grade changed by the sixth week of the subsequent term, excluding summer terms. The resulting “F” grade remains the permanent grade for the course.

**Disability Statement:**

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services at 865-2990 as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Any student encountering special circumstances just see me before or after class. We can surely arrive at a mutually beneficial consensus.

**Policy Regarding Return of Student Work:**

All students have the right to receive copies of their graded work and are encouraged to do so in order to benefit from faculty feedback on the work. Graded assignments, projects, and papers not returned directly to students while the class is in session will be made available for students to pick up for at least six weeks after the beginning of the subsequent semester, excluding summers. Following this time period, graded work being held for pick-up may be destroyed. Students who wish to receive copies of graded work should communicate directly with the course faculty to arrange to receive the desired materials.