GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

# ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 200 – CRIMINAL LAW

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

AOJ 200 Criminal Law 3 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

96-108 outside-of-class hours

144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

This course offers an analysis of the doctrines of criminal liability in the United States and the classification of crimes against persons, property, morals, and public welfare. Special emphasis is placed on the classification of crime, the general elements of crime, the definitions of common and statutory law, and the nature of acceptable evidence. This course utilizes case law and case studies to introduce students to criminal law. The completion of this course offers a foundation upon which upper-division criminal justice courses will build. The course will also include some limited discussion of prosecution and defense decision making, criminal culpability, and defenses to crimes.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Explain the adversary system and sources of criminal law;
2. Analyze and discuss the philosophical and historical evolution of criminal law, noting the role of the judiciary in its development;
3. Demonstrate knowledge ofthe basic terminology, definitions, and theories of criminal law;
4. Assess and explainelements of offenses against the person, property, morals, and public welfare;
5. Critically examine and **c**lassify crimes according to severity;
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the concept of lesser included offenses;
7. Critically analyze andexplain capacity to commit crime, causation, and culpability;
8. Critically analyze various components of our system of criminal law;
9. Explain and discuss criminal defenses, legal justifications, and burdens of proof;
10. Analyze the evolution of common law and its transition into statutory law and compare the two;
11. Research case law, appellate court decisions, and compose a sample case brief;
12. Analyze case law and be able to:
13. Interpret the case, and locate the applicable statutory code.
14. Explain the correct elements of the code.
15. Explain how professionalism, leadership, ethics, and moral standards relate to the pursuit of a career in public safety;
16. Explore career streams in criminal justice and public safety;
17. Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively in a group setting;
18. Conduct research and analytically write studies on criminal law cases.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 200 – CRIMINAL LAW Page 2

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

Access to a personal computer with Internet capability.

7. Course Content

1. Historical background of criminal law.
2. Fundamentals of the adversarial system.
3. Criminal law classifications.
4. Offenses against persons, property, morals, and public welfare.
5. Criminal defenses and justifications.
6. Examination of case law, appellate court decisions and case briefs.
7. Specific legal terms and their application to existing criminal law.
8. Common legal scenarios related to criminal law, including analyzing applicable statutory codes.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lecture

b. Criminal case analysis.

c. Debate and discussions.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Quizzes that measure student’s ability to apply principles related to criminal law.
2. Case analysis including the analysis of the applicable statutory code and the correct elements of the code.
3. Homework writtenassignments, in-class exercises and oral presentations that critically analyze various components of our system of criminal law.
4. Completed case written brief identifying the elements of offenses and the discussion of criminal defenses, legal justifications, and burdens of proof.
5. Exams including a comprehensive written final exam, which measure students’ ability to apply principles of criminal law, criminal defenses, legal justifications, and burdens of proof.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Students will be required to read text and supplementary materials.

b. Legal research written project that implements the analysis of statutory codes, burdens of proof, criminal defenses, legal justifications, and other principles related to criminal law.

11. Texts

a. Required Text(s):

(1) Michelson, Richard and James Zuffoletto. *Concepts of Criminal Law for California*. San Clemente, CA: LawTech Publishing, 2010.

(2) Lippman, M. R. *Essential Criminal Law*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications. 2017.

(3) California Penal Code. San Clemente, CA: Law Tech Publishing, current abridged edition.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 200 – CRIMINAL LAW Page 3

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Articulate and discuss the structural framework of criminal statutory law.
2. Define, analyze and paraphrase the concepts of men rea, actus rea and corpus delicti.
3. Analyze the historical origins of American Criminal Law.
4. Differentiate situations using the laws which are enumerated in the California Penal Code.
5. Appraise value of landmark case decisions and synthesize the impact on modern society.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 13, 2019