

CJ383-01
CRIMINAL LAW
Spring Semester (January - May) 2019
Dr. Jiabo Liu
Department of Criminal Justice, MVSU, Mississippi, USA

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Office Phone: 662-254-3368
Email: jliu@mvsu.edu
Office Hours:
Mondays 10:00am – 10:50am
Tuesdays 2:00 pm – 5:00pm
Wednesdays 10:00am – 10:50am; 2:00pm – 5:00pm
Thursdays 2:40pm – 5:00pm
or By Appointment at least 6 hours in Advance

Catalog Course Description

An introductory course designed to familiarize students with substantive criminal law. The scope and sources of criminal law, essential elements of a crime, criminal liability, criminal responsibility and the capacity to commit a crime, defense, criminal punishment, criminal jurisdiction are some of the topics covered in the course.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to acquaint students with:

1. Identify the essential elements of the American criminal law;
2. Provide the basic knowledge of the American criminal law;
3. Discuss important issues on the American criminal law.

Core Objectives of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Program

Upon completion of the undergraduate program the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the structure, functions and principles of the main components of the criminal justice system - law enforcement, courts, corrections, in addition to theories of crime and research methods.
2. Demonstrate ability to apply criminological principles to address “real life” criminal justice related problems.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of research methods appropriate at the baccalaureate level.

Class Meeting Time and Place

Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00am–12:15pm, SSB18.

Required Textbook

Criminal Law (12th Edition). (2017). Joel Samaha. Cengage Learning. ISBN-10: 1305577388; ISBN-13: 9781305577381.

Additional readings may be issued to you during the class.

Grading Policy

The final grade will be determined by evaluating the following four parts:

Grading Scale: 90 – 100% = A, 80 – 89% = B, 70 – 79% = C, 60 – 69% = D, Below 60% = F.

I. Middle Semester Examination (25%)

An open-note and in-class examination as Middle Semester Examination will be held on 6th March 2019. This examination will consist of many multiple-choice questions that test students' understanding of the contents in the required textbook and class discussions. No share of any material in any media during the exam. Each of you will independently take this examination.

II. Final Examination (30%)

An open-note and in-class examination as Final Examination will be held on 24th April 2019 for graduating seniors and on 29th April - 3rd May 2019 for non-graduating seniors. This examination will consist of many multiple-choice questions that test your understanding of the contents in the required textbook and class discussions. No share of any material in any media during the exam. Each of you will independently take this examination.

III. Class Presentation & Term Paper (Total 5%)

- A. Each of you is assigned to present your term (class) paper and related issues (if any) for at least 5 minutes on the scheduled day in the syllabus (2.5%).
- B. Each of you is required to write a five-page term paper and to submit the term paper to the professor at jliu@mvsu.edu on the date as indicated in the Guidelines. The requirements of the class paper will be issued separately (2.5%).

IV. Class Participation (40%)

Class participation will be a combining product of reading textbook before class, attending class, raising substantial questions about the related issues, exercising practices, and submitting issued assignments during the class.

If you did something of non-class activities, violate classroom rules as stipulated in the syllabus, and/or received a warning from the professor, your participation scores would be reduced. If your behaviors disrupt the class participation to any extent, the professor reserves the rights to ask you to leave the classroom temporarily.

Make-Up Policy

Make up maybe allowed, depending on the circumstances with an excuse. It is at the professor's discretion and with students' request before the deadlines of quizzers, exams, or assignments.

Cheating &Plagiarism Policy

Cheating in any fashion will not be tolerated, including but not limited to plagiarizing another's words, work or ideas on individual class assignments.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is a commitment to the values of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, respect and responsibility in academia. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonest act that is committed in an academic context. Honesty and integrity are essential values of the Mississippi Valley State University's mission to pursue truth and knowledge. Academic excellence can be reached only with the cooperation and support of students. Students are expected therefore to accept responsibility for maintaining honesty and integrity in all acts inside and outside the classroom, studio or laboratory. (MVSU Student Handbook pg.59.)

Class Attendance Policy

Attendance, by policy, is required. With no attendance, at least, you would not earn your points from your participations unless, even if you face emergency, you have doctor's excuse and/or an excuse letter from the Office of Student Affairs that are the ONLY excuses, whenever provided before final exam, for earning your points from your participations when you are absent.

General Course Policies

1. Be on time for all class activities. "Late" is greatly NOT encouraged. You do not have to be perfect but need to make perfect efforts.
2. Do not bring children to the classroom, turn off your cell-phone, pager and/or any other noising, sound or sound-video-recording electronic or mechanic devices during the class, and no noising, sound or sound-video-recording electronic or mechanic devices can appear on the surface during the class.
3. The professor reserves the right to modify assignments and/or any contents of this syllabus to meet the needs of the students enrolled and to adjust for unforeseen events, modifications or adjustments will be announced during class or via email, it is your responsibilities to pay attention to any modifications or adjustments.
4. Any with either learning or physical disabilities should consult the relevant office at the University and address your situation to the professor with official documents from the office.
5. The professor reserves the right to make photocopies of your completed assignments after grading before returning them to you.
6. You are expected to follow all university policies regarding students' activities in class and in professor's office. You take full responsibilities for all types of consequences of your violations of the policies/classroom rules stipulated in the syllabus and in Student Handbook.

CJ383-01 Criminal Law Spring (Jan – May) 2019 Tentative Schedule

Dates	Topics	Readings or Assignments
Jan 7 Monday	Introduction	No Assignments.
Jan 9 Wed	Criminal Law & Punishment in US Society	Samaha, Chapter 1.
Jan 14 Monday	Criminal Law & Punishment in US Society	Samaha, Chapter 1.
Jan 16 Wed	Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law (I)	Samaha, Chapter 2, pp. 39-68.
Jan 21 Monday	M. L. King Day (No Class Meeting)	
Jan 23 Wed	Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law (II)	Samaha, Chapter 2, pp. 68-92.
Jan 28 Monday	Criminal Act: First Principle of Criminal Liability	Samaha, Chapter 3.
Jan 30 Wed	General Principle of Criminal Liability (I)	Samaha, Chapter 4, pp. 125-142.
Feb 4 Monday	General Principle of Criminal Liability (II)	Samaha, Chapter 4, pp. 142-160.
Feb 6 Wed	Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications (I)	Samaha, Chapter 5, pp. 164-185.
Feb 11 Monday	Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications (II)	Samaha, Chapter 5, pp. 186-203.
Feb 13 Wed	Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuses (I)	Samaha, Chapter 6, pp. 205-226.
Feb 18 Monday	Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuses (II)	Samaha, Chapter 6, pp. 226-240.
Feb 20 Wed	Parties to Crime & Vicarious Criminal Liability	Samaha, Chapter 7, pp. 243-254.
Feb 25 Monday	Parties to Crime & Vicarious Criminal Liability	Samaha, Chapter 7, pp. 255-267.
Feb 27 Wed	Inchoate Crimes	Samaha, Chapter 8.
Mar 4 Monday	Class Review (Chapters 1 – 8)	
Mar 6 Wed	Middle Term Exam	
Mar 11-15	Spring Break	
Mar 18	Crimes against Persons (I): Murder	Samaha, Chapter 9, pp. 322-352.

Monday		
Mar 20 Wed	Crimes against Persons (II): Manslaughter	Samaha, Chapter 9, pp. 353-378.
Mar 25 Monday	Crimes against Persons (III): Sex Offenses	Samaha, Chapter 10, pp. 381-406.
Mar 27 Wed	Crimes against Persons (IV): Assault, Battery, Stalking, Kidnapping, False Imprisonment	Samaha, Chapter 10, pp. 407-428.
April 1 Monday	Crimes against Property (I): Larceny, White-Collar Crime, Robbery, Receiving Stolen Property	Samaha, Chapter 11, pp. 431-455.
April 3 Wed	Crimes against Property (II): Arson, Criminal Mischief, Burglary, Criminal Trespass, Identity Theft, Intellectual Property Theft	Samaha, Chapter 11, pp. 455-482.
April 8 Monday	Crimes against Public Order & Morals (I): Disorderly Conduct, Vagrancy, Loitering, & Gang Activities	Samaha, Chapter 12, pp. 485-500.
April 10 Wed	Crimes against Public Order & Morals (II): Violent Video Games, Prostitution	Samaha, Chapter 12, pp. 501-517.
April 15 Monday	Crimes against the State	Samaha, Chapter 13.
April 17 Wed	Class Review (Chapters 1 – 13)	
April 22 Monday	Easter Monday	
April 24 Wed	Final Examination for Graduating Seniors	
April 29 - May 3	Final Examination for Non-Graduating Seniors	