**I. COURSE TITLE:** Criminal Law

**COURSE NUMBER:** 1125 **CATALOG PREFIX:** CJUS

**II. PREREQUISITE(S):** None

**III. CREDIT HOURS:** 3 **LECTURE HOURS:** 3

**LABORATORY HOURS:** 0 **OBSERVATION HOURS:** 0

**IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will explore the history, scope, and nature of criminal law. This course will analyze the general nature of crime, constitutional limits on crime, and general principals of criminal liability. Topics include legal language and machinery, parties to crime, classification of offenses, act and intent, capacity to commit crime, and various defenses. Primary emphasis will be on common law and modern statutory criminal codes. Students are provided knowledge of the building blocks of criminal law to include elements of crimes and defenses to criminal charges. The role of the police, criminal courts, and attorneys in the administration of the criminal justice system will be discussed in detail. The course will teach the student how to analyze and brief criminal cases and identify and discuss criminal issues. An overview of the criminal justice process and rules of evidence will be provided.

**V. ADOPTED TEXT(S):**

*Criminal Law*

12th Ed. 2016

By: Samaha, J.

Cengage Learning

ISBN: 978-1-305-57738-1

**VI. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate and explain the following learning objectives:

* Classify and grade criminal activity
* Identify and discuss the sources of criminal law

• Compare the theories of punishment for crimes

* Discuss the constitutional limitations on criminal law
* Identify parties to crime and the concept of vicarious liability
* Analyze the uncompleted crimes of attempt, conspiracy and solicitation
* Relate the justification defenses to criminal liability
* Assess in detail current issues concerning the death penalty

**VII. COURSE METHODOLOGY:**

Lecture, discussion, journals, case studies, and other methodologies may be utilized as appropriate to the course objectives.

**VIII. GRADING**

Students will be required to complete written exams, quizzes, presentations, and/or homework assignments at the times designated by the course instructor. Late assignments will be considered for half credit.

Grades will be awarded using the following schedule:

A= 90 - 100

B= 80 - 89

C= 70 -79

D= 60 – 69

F = 59 and below – Student will be required to repeat course

Honesty and integrity are major elements in professional behavior and are expected of each criminal justice student. Cheating is an unacceptable behavior within all criminal justice courses. Students having academic difficulties should seek guidance and/or assistance from the instructor, academic advisor, or college counselor.

A student observed or found to be cheating on a test or assignment in any criminal justice course will be given a “zero” on the test or assignment. A written report of the incident, signed by the instructor and the student, will be placed in the student’s file. This notice will remain on file and in effect for the remainder of the student’s enrollment in the criminal justice program. Should a second incident of cheating occur in any criminal justice course, the student will receive a failing grade for the course and will be dismissed from the criminal justice program for one year. The “zero” grade for dishonesty may not be used as the drop grade in a course in which a drop grade option is given.

**IX. COURSE OUTLINE:**

At the beginning of the quarter, instructors will pass out a class schedule that lists all class meetings. The topics indicated below will be covered:

* What behavior deserves criminal punishment
* Crimes and non-criminal wrongs
* Classifying crimes
* General and special parts of criminal law
* The sources of criminal law
* Criminal law in a federal system
* What is the appropriate punishment for criminal behavior
* Presumption of innocence and proving criminal liability
* Discretionary decision making
* The text-case method
* The principle of legality
* Ex post facto laws
* Void for vagueness doctrine
* Equal protection of the laws
* The Bill of Rights and criminal law
* The Constitution and Criminal Sentencing
* The right to trial by jury
* Elements of criminal liability
* The criminal act (actus reus)
* Acuts reus and the U. S. Constitution
* Omissions as criminal acts.
* Possession as a criminal act
* Mens Rea
* Concurrence
* Causation
* Ignorance and mistake
* Affirmative defenses
* Self-Defense
* Defenses of others
* The “New Castle Laws”: Right to Defend” or “License to Kill”
* General principle of necessity
* Consent
* Defense to insanity
* Defense to diminished capacity
* The excuse of age
* Defense of Duress
* Defense intoxication
* Defense of entrapment
* The syndrome defense
* Participation before and during the commission of a crime
* Participation after the commission of a crime
* Vicarious liability
* Attempt laws
* Conspiracy laws
* Solicitation laws
* Criminal homicide
* The meaning of “person” or “human being”
* Sex offenses
* Elements of modern rape law
* Bodily injury crimes
* Domestic violence crimes
* Stalking Crimes
* Personal Restraint Crimes
* History of criminal taking of other’s property
* Larceny and theft
* Theft by false pretenses
* Robbery and extortion
* Receiving stolen property
* Damaging or destroying property
* Invading another’s property
* Cybercrimes
* Disorderly conduct
* “Quality of Life” crimes
* Panhandling
* Gang activity
* Victimless crimes
* Treason
* Sedition, sabotage and espionage
* Anti-terrorism crimes.

**Sample Course Outline\***

**Criminal Law**

Week 1 Chapter 1: Criminal Law and Criminal Punishment: and Overview

Week 2 Chapter 2: Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law

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

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

Week 5 Review of Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4

Exam Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4

Week 6 Chapter 5: Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications

Week 7 Chapter 6: Defenses to Criminal Liability:

Week 8 Chapter 7: Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability

Week 9 Review of Chapter 5, 6, and 7

Exam Chapter 5, 6, and 7

Week 10 Chapter 8: Inchoate Crimes: Attempt, Conspiracy and Solicitation

Week 11 Chapter 9: Crimes Against Person I: Murder and Manslaughter

Week 12 Chapter 10: Crimes Against Person II: Criminal Sexual Conduct, Bodily Injury and Personal Restraint

Week 13 Chapter 11: Crimes against Property

Week 14 Chapter 12: Crimes Against Public Order and Morals

Week 15 Chapter 13: Crimes Against Public Order and Morals

Review of Chapter 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13

Week 16 FINAL EXAM (Comprehensive)

\*Instructor reserves the right to organize work to meet the objectives of the course.

**X. OTHER REQUIRED TEXTS, SOFTWARE, AND MATERIALS:**

If taken online, must have access to a computer and software meeting the current requirements listed in the Online Courses section at www.sscc.edu

1. **EVALUATION:**

**Research Paper:** Each student will prepare and submit a 1,600-2,400 word research paper on a topic of criminal law, of their choice, with instructor approval. Students will select the topic by the end of Week 3 and turn in the paper by the end of Week 12.

**Case Brief:** Each student will prepare and submit a case brief. The instructor will provide the case. The case to be briefed will be provided by the instructor by the end of Week 4 and turned in by the student by the end of Week 10.

**WRITING EXPECTATIONS**

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. It is recommended that students try to adhere to a consistent format, which is described below.

* Typewritten in double-spaced format with a readable style and font and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).
* Arial 11 or 12-point font or Times New Roman styles.
* Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.

There will be three 100-point examinations including a comprehensive final exam. All exams may contain material from earlier in the course/program. Students are expected to achieve a passing score of 70 on the exams. A separate MAKE UP EXAM will be provided. MAKE-UP EXAMS must be conducted within one calendar week of the date the original exam was given at a time agreed upon by the instructor.

The research paper and student brief must be of original content by each student. Students are expected to achieve a passing score of 70 on the research assignment.

Final Grade Calculation:

Measuring Tool Number Required Maximum Points

Exams 3 @ 100 points each 300

Research Paper 1 @ 100 points 100

Case Brief 1 @ 100 points 100

Attendance and

Class Participation 50

550

**XII. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

Student Responsibilities:

To meet the objectives of the course, students must attend all scheduled classes. At the beginning of the quarter, instructors will pass out a class schedule that lists all class meetings. If a student must miss a class due to extenuating circumstances, then the student is expected to call and inform the instructor by either talking with the instructor or leaving a message should the instructor not be available.

Students will be allowed two class absences. Unexcused absences over two times will result in a drop of one letter grade from the final grade, i.e. the third absence would reduce a final grade of “A” to a “B.” Two instances of significant tardiness or leaving early will be considered equivalent to an absence for purposes of this calculation.

Specific login and activity requirements will be indicated in the initial instructions for any online sections.

Instructor’s Responsibilities:

The instructor will enhance and expand the meaning and application of the subject matter covered throughout the course. At the beginning of each quarter, the instructor will distribute syllabi listing all class sessions and course requirements. The instructor will facilitate class discussion and be available to students who need additional educational assistance

**XIII.** **OTHER INFORMATION:**

**Classroom courtesy and decorum**

Old –fashioned courtesy and mutual respect are the order of the day. Rude behavior of any sort will not be tolerated. It is especially important that there be no disruptions that hinder the learning process during class. Such disruptions include, but are not limited to sleeping, eating, listening to iPods, talking and or text messaging on cell phone or other device, using wireless internet connections not related to the subject matter being covered in the class room, reading newspapers, or other unrelated materials during lectures, coming late, leaving early, etc. If you have a need to engage in any of the aforementioned activities, kindly do it somewhere other than this classroom. If you engage in any of the aforementioned activates the instructor has the authority to remove you from the classroom and remove you from the class list.

**Cheating**

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC HONESTY

(Southern State Community College Catalog 2009-2011, pp.53-56)

Southern State Community College is committed to providing educational opportunities that promote academic, professional and personal growth in students. To these ends, all members of the college are expected to uphold the highest academic and ethical stands.

Types of Academic Misconduct

1. Any unauthorized use of material (books, notes, of any kind, and so forth) during an examination, test, or quiz.
2. Copying from another student’s work, permitting one’s work to be copied during an examination, test, or quiz.
3. Unauthorized use of equipment (computers, calculators, or any type of educational or laboratory equipment).
4. Permitting a person to pose in one’s place during an examination, test, quiz, or posing as another person during an examination, test, quiz.
5. Altering an examination, test, quiz, or any other type of evaluated work in an effort to have the work re-evaluated for higher grade.
6. Plagiarizing or permitting one’s work to be plagiarized.
7. Using unauthorized or improper methods to determine in advance the contents of an examination, rest, or quiz.
8. Unauthorized use of computer software during an examination, tests, or quiz.
9. Submitting as one’s own a work of art, a speech, or oral report, a musical composition, a computer program, a laboratory project or any other creation done by another person.

Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism can be defined as copying someone else’s words or ideas and passing it off as your own. This includes copying material from the World Wide Web, the Internet, books, videos, and all copyrighted material without express permission and documentation.

Possible Sanctions for Academic Misconduct

By an instructor:

Instructors must state possible options at the beginning of a quarter of what sanctions they will apply to cases of academic misconduct. Instructors may choose any of the following possible sanctions:

“F” for an individual examination, test, quiz, or evaluated project.

“F” for the course.

Refer the case to the Academic Appeals Committee.

**FERPA:** Work submitted in this class may be seen by others. Others may see your work when being distributed, during group project work, or if it is chosen for demonstration purposes. Other instructors may also see your work during the evaluation/feedback process. There is also a possibility that your papers may be submitted electronically to other entities to determine if content is original and references are cited appropriately.

**Disabilities:** Need for assistance: If you have any condition or situation that will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students with disabilities may contact the Disabilities Service Office, Central Campus at 800-628-7722 or 937-393-3431.