

[College of the Siskiyous](#)
ADJ-2-Concepts of Criminal Law
Course Information Bulletin
Fall, 2009

Course: Concepts of Criminal law
Number: ADJ-2
Credit: 3 Units
Online Course

Instructor: [Will Bullington](#)

Email: bullington@siskiyous.edu

Texts: *1) Criminal Law. Gardner and Anderson.. 10th Edition, ISBN 0495390895 (At bookstore) 2) "Stop Teaching Our Kids To Kill," Lt. Col. Dave Grossman and Gloria DeGaetano, ISBN 0-609-60613-1(also at bookstore).*

Course Description:

This course will cover 6 basic, fundamental criminal law disciplines or areas of focus:

1. Basic Concepts of Criminal law
2. Balancing Constitutional Rights with the need for public order
3. Crimes against Persons
4. Crimes against Property
5. Sex Crimes
6. Other Criminal Conduct--Drugs, gangs etc.

The course will also focus on the historical development, philosophy of law and constitutional provisions, definitions, classifications of crimes and their application to the system of the Administration of Justice; Legal research, the study of case law, methodology and concepts of law as a social force.

Support Hour:

The support hour provides students with professional assistance, supplemental instruction and remediation opportunities to help improve student success. Supervised support is offered for reading, writing, math, information technology, computer competency, and other skills outside of discipline specific content. During the

semester, students will complete a variety of tasks related to this course that will necessitate the services available through the support hour. These tasks will include (list course specific tasks such as: discussion of writing assignments with lab staff; use of MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint or Access to present work or complete homework; exploration of course CD-ROM or course software; learning the basics of citing sources, paraphrasing, and avoiding plagiarism; use of Skills Bank software to review basic reading, writing, and math skills). Student use of the support hour will be assessed, as outlined in the Grading section.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course of study and depending upon the individual student's commitment and participation in the class, he/she will develop a better understanding of the following criminal law issues and concepts:

- To provide the student with a knowledge of the historical development of law and the philosophy of law.
- To familiarize the student with the United States Constitution and to integrate constitutional provisions with the fundamentals of law.
- To introduce the student to basic legal definitions and concepts which provide a foundation for law.
- To develop within the student an appreciation for the value of case study and legal research as a means of interpreting court decisions in relation to the written statutes.
- To familiarize the student with the relationship between the law and the total Administration of Justice.
- To explore the relationship between certain statutory crimes and the legal foundation(s) on which they are based.

****Note:** Due to the amount of material to be covered and, depending on the other factors (discussion topics, holidays etc.) not all of the chapters will be discussed or covered during the semester.

Grading Policy:

I DO NOT grade on a curve. You will be graded on a point total basis only. However, I do round up or round down for each grade. For example, a 68.5% = 69%; 79.4% = 79%. Your grades will be determined by the following percentages:

- 90%-100% = A
- 80%-89% = B
- 70%-79% = C
- 60%-69% = D
- Below 60% = F

Tests and Quizzes:

Quizzes:

Generally, but not always, there will be a quiz after each chapter of study. Each quiz is worth 20 points. The quizzes will be comprised of 10 selected multiple-choice-type questions worth 2 points apiece.

Tests:

There will be generally one test after each 3 chapters of classroom material. These tests will cover lectures, textbook material, homework (case studies) and other in-class material (videos etc.)

Note: Since there is no one best test instrument to assess retention of knowledge, I have constructed my tests in the following manner: (You cannot guess, at least it is more difficult to do so!)

- 20 multiple choice questions (2 pts apiece)
- 20 matching questions (2 pts apiece)

Final Exam:

The final exam will be posted the last week of the class.

Assignments:

Pay attention to the assignments, tests, and discussions. Announcements are always sent to you with your on record e-mail. If you have questions contact me!

Literary Analysis: DUE 11-8-09

You will be reading a book entitled, "*Stop Teaching Our Kids To Kill*: by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman and Gloria Degaitano. You will be conducting an analysis of the book and responding to several statements from the book in a critical thinking application of the concepts. Attached to this course information bulletin is the write-up information you will need to complete this project. The due date for this assignment is November 6, 2009

Extra Credit:

There will be ONE AND ONLY ONE extra credit assignment this semester. It involves a critical analysis of the movie: "*To Kill A Mocking Bird*."

Participation is totally voluntary. The information packet will be given to you later. The point totals will be the same as a homework assignment (20 points)

Research Topic:

There will be one extensive research project due during the semester. Your topic **MUST** involve a relevant criminal justice issue and be approved by me (unless on the attached list). A list with suggested topics and the required format is included with this handout. Please read the below information as it relates to this serious violation:

Plagiarism is a serious matter. It is defined as follows:

" Plagiarism is an act of theft committed by a person who is stealing someone else's intellectual property. Plagiarism is an act of dishonesty. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, a writer is misrepresenting someone else's words or ideas as his or her own." (SEE HANDOUT)

Your term paper should be your own work supplemented by extensive research on the subject matter. In order to curb the inclination to use sources and not cite them, I will "spot check" some of your papers for plagiarism. If I find that the work submitted is plagiarized, the following discipline **MAY** occur:

1. An interview with me will be held to determine the extent of the plagiarism
 2. If it is found you plagiarized, you will receive a "0" on that assignment
 3. If it happens again, you will fail the course.
- Project Due date: **Thursday December 6th, 2009**
 - Selection date: August 30th, 2009
 - If requested you may pick up the graded paper at a designated location.

Make up Work:

All assignments/tests/quizzes/homework etc., are due on the deadline shown. There is always some type of excuse to accept late work such as:

- Illness
- COS sponsored activities
- Death or family emergencies
- Alien abductions (If verified)

Anyway, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to notify me if you are going to use one of the excused absences from the above list.

Codes of Conduct:

Cheating:

DON'T DO IT! As a potential criminal justice professional, your conduct and behavior MUST be beyond reproach! If you are found to be cheating (homework, tests, quizzes etc.) you will receive a 0 on that assignment. A second incident will result in an F for the semester and removal from the class. You may however, withdraw if it is within the COS drop/add period.

Special Needs Students:

It will be YOUR responsibility to notify or advise me of any special need(s) you may have (hearing, sight etc.) so appropriate and reasonable arrangements/accommodations can be made for you.

PARTICIPATION/WITHDRAWL/INCOMPLETE:

Participation is a must. Discussions and chat rooms are the means by which a student shows his/her participation in a course. Points are awarded for posting and replying to discussions and assignments. You may withdraw from this class as any class on campus by filling out the appropriate forms and submitting them BEFORE the dates listed in the catalog or schedule of classes. You may also receive an incomplete for this course. This is a contract between you and me for circumstances that do not allow you to complete the course. This might include a long-term illness, death in the family, etc. You must fill out the appropriate form and submit them to me per COS policy.

Syllabus:

On line courses are structured around a strict syllabus. The text book audio and video lectures aid in the learning environment. Watch for announcements, the schedule, and pay attention to assignment deadlines. The great thing about online courses is that you can do them at anytime of the day or night you choose, but you must make the time to complete the tasks, tests, discussions, research paper and you must PARTICIPATE the same as in a formal classroom.

Diversity Statement:

Each of us comes to this class with our unique perspectives, prejudices and personal biases. I expect each of us to respect the origins, nationalities, cultures and contributions of the class members during the course of this class. It is these unique qualities that assist each of us in the learning process and tolerance of ideas different than our own. Discussions and chat room use has gotten out of hand in on line courses. Don't post rude or derogatory statements just because you disagree with another students posting. Adult or mature debate aids in the learning process while argumentative and inflammatory language breaks down communications.

Any student who demeans or is perceived to "make fun" of any other class member due to their heritage, race, sexual orientation or national origin will be invited to quit the class.