

[College of the Siskiyous](#)
ADJ-2-Concepts of Criminal Law
Course Information Bulletin
Spring, 2010

[WEBGRADES](#)

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

Instructor: [Will Bullington](#)

Office Hours: Thursdays Noon to 1 P.M.

Office Location: Online in ETUDES

Email: bullington@siskiyous.edu Please contact me for my phone number if you need to speak with me personally.

Texts: *1) Criminal Law. Gardner and Anderson.. 10th Edition, ISBN-13 978-0-495-55435-6 (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. Help with ETUDES issues may be accessed on campus though David Donica. I will post his contact information under “modules” the first week of class.

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. I have skipped a chapter or two, so we may concentrate on other more pertinent chapters.

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:

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 the text. 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)
- 2 short essay-type questions (10 pts apiece) 100 pts total!

I DO NOT like Fill-in-the-blank questions and you will not see any one my tests! The use of computers and/or reference material can be accessed through use of the support hour and your grades will reflect the utilization of this support hour as it relates to your exam/quiz and research project efforts.

Final Exam:

- Posted online the last week of the semester during “finals week.”

The final exam will cover ANY area discussed during the semester. This could include, lectures, guest speakers, handouts, videos etc. The test will consist of 50 multiple choice-type questions; 20 true and false and 5 essay-type questions of which you must choose 3 to answer. The test will be worth 200 points. It will cover the last approx. 5 chapters of the text.

Lecture:

I lecture online with audio lectures from my MP3 player. Most students have no problem listening to these. I am still working on video lecture but ETUDES restricts uploads to their server to 5 mb, only 20 mins of audio and 5 of video. I also use the power point presentations for supporting the audio lecture. You will need to have a MS Power Point Viewer at least. You may go to their website and download a free 2003 Power Point Viewer.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned throughout the semester. The majority of the homework will come from the "CASE ANALYSIS AND WRITING EXERCISES" at the end of certain chapters in the text. They will be worth 20 pts each. Homework is posted in the online "assignments" editor. You may also attach a word document. I cannot open word perfect, Corel, etc. so please use MS Word or some other means: note pad, etc.

Literary Analysis: DUE 4-18-10

You will be reading a book entitled, "*Stop Teaching Our Kids To Kill*:" by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman and Gloria Degaitano. We will also be watching lectures by Lt. Col. Grossman on the subject. 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. The write up information will be posted under "assignments."

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*." You may rent it online at Netflix, local video, etc Participation is totally voluntary. The

“assignment” will be posted. The point totals will be the same as two homework assignments (40 points)

Discussions:

This is of course our area for classroom discussion. This is where I pose questions in class, and you “raise your hand” and participate in the class. This is a must. Each week there will be a discussion worth 10 points, 5 for posting and 5 for replying to another students “post.” These add up fast and students have lost an entire grade by not keeping up on these.

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." Work will be screened through the colleges “turn it in” program for internet and other plagiarism.

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: **5-9-10**
- Selection date: **1-31-10**
- If you want the paper returned you must send me a self addressed stamped envelope.

Make up Work:

All assignments/tests/quizzes/homework etc., are due to me on the day they are due. However, I am aware that parties, girl/guy relationships, and sports do take their toll. So, I will accept assignments that are turned into me by 1pm in my mail box in the Student Center on **THE DAY THEY ARE DUE!** Otherwise there is no make up work accepted at all! Yes, there are exceptions:

- 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.

Chat Room and Discussions:

You are all adults. You are expected to act as such while in my class! Respect others views and do not insult or use language that might hurt someone's feelings. Debate is healthy but done in an atmosphere of professionalism and respect.

Duty to Warn:

Occasionally during the semester, I may become aware of a situation(s) that are illegal or could have serious consequences if not reported to the proper authorities. If this occurs, I will promptly notify the appropriate authority (police, fire, COS Administration etc.) In other words, there are no **KINGS X** when it comes to this! Do not ask for special consideration!

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.

ATTENDANCE/WITHDRAWL/INCOMPLETE:

An online course does take much of the same time and dedication that a face to face class does. You need to stay up with discussions, assignments, quizzes, tests, etc. Your quality of work must reflect college level work. Many of you are training to go into a profession that demands proper grammar and sentence structure for police reports, communications, etc.

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:

There will not be a formal week-to-week syllabus. There is so much information to be presented that I hate to be locked into a certain days, etc. I will post in “announcements” and the schedule everyday assignments, test dates, quizzes etc. Have no fear, you will be kept informed! Online courses include a lot of typing for instructors, and from time to time a quiz or other assignment may have a “glitch” in it. Let me know so I may fix it. The tough part with ETUDES is I may not alter a published quiz or test.

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. 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 leave the class.