

**IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE**  
**Concepts of Criminal Law**  
**Spring 2013**

**AJ 102: Concepts of Criminal Law**

**Instructor: Kathy Rodriguez**

**3.0 Units**

**CRN 20111**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course will cover the general part of criminal law: the nature, origins, structure, sources, and purposes of criminal law and criminal punishment; the constitutional limits on the criminal law; the general principles of criminal liability; the defenses of justification and excuse; parties to a crime and vicarious liability; and incomplete crimes. It will also cover the special part of the criminal law; the major crimes against persons; crimes against homes and property; crimes against public order and morals; and crimes against the state.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)**

**Course SLOs:** Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are written statements that represent faculty and departmental learning goals for students. During this course, students will:

<b>Outcome 1:</b>	Identify the difference between criminal law and civil law.
<b>Outcome 2:</b>	Identify liability and how liability is determined.
<b>Outcome 3:</b>	Demonstrate understanding of various crime groups to include: Crimes against People, Crimes against Property, and Crimes against the Government.

**Institutional SLOs:** Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs) are areas of learning that students, faculty, staff, and administrators work toward and assess on a regular basis. After successful completion of a program or degree at Imperial Valley College, students are expected to have measurable improvement in the following areas: ISLO1 - Communication Skills, ISLO2 - Critical Thinking Skills, ISLO3 - Personal Responsibility, ISLO4 - Information Literacy, and ISLO5 - Global Awareness.

AJ 106 Principles and Procedures of the Justice System will provide students with learning opportunities to improve in all five of the Institutional Student Learning Outcomes.

**OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following course objectives:

<b>Objective 1</b>	Synthesize the historical development of the law and philosophy of the law.
<b>Objective 2</b>	Demonstrate knowledge of the United States Constitution and constitutional legal issues through assigned writings and case studies.
<b>Objective 3</b>	Restate and explain basic legal definitions and concepts..
<b>Objective 4</b>	Formulate an appreciation for the value of case study and legal research as a means of interpreting court decisions in relation to written statute.
<b>Objective 5</b>	Demonstrate a basic knowledge and application of specific criminal violations.
<b>COURSE FORMAT</b>	

**This class is divided into 16 weeks. There will be 10 pop quizzes during the semester. Ten questions worth 10 points. No make-up quizzes will be given. There will be a midterm and a comprehensive final each worth 100 points.**

<b>TEXTBOOKS</b>
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The following textbooks is required for this course:

**Criminal Law 10<sup>th</sup> Ed.;**  
**Author: Joel Samaha**

This is your main textbook for the course. The questions contained in both the quizzes and the exams will come from this book so read and study it carefully. This textbook takes an in-depth look at the procedures of the justice system of government.

<b>QUIZZES AND ASSIGNMENTS</b>
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After completing the chapter readings, students will be quizzed. The quizzes consist of ten questions and are worth 10 points. No make-up quizzes allowed unless extenuating circumstances exist.

**Class Assignments:** There will be 5 class assignments given during the semester. Each is worth 15 points. You will be notified one week before they are due. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Class participation is vital to this course. Students are expected to do the week's reading prior to class and to be prepared to discuss the assigned cases in class.

Students will be randomly called upon to discuss issues and topics related to the chapter. Any student who is not prepared will lose points for that day's participation.

**ATTENDANCE:** One goal of this course is to instill a work ethic needed to be a successful employee. Like having a job, students are expected to attend class, show up on time, and not leave early. Students will be allowed three absences from class. On the fourth absence, the student will be dropped from the class. Being late or leaving early will count as one-third of an absence. Missing more than half a class session will count as a full absence. Students will also be dropped from the class if they miss two class sessions in a row. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

**EXAMS**

There are two exams for this course, the midterm exam and the final exam, each worth 100 points. The exams must be taken as scheduled unless *prior* approval has been obtained from the instructor. The exams will be given as follows:

SCHEDULE OF EXAMS	
Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-6)	March 6, 2013
Final Exam (COMPREHENSIVE)	May 6, 2013

**GRADES**

How much you learn in the course, as well as your final grade, depends on the effort you put into the readings and assignments. There are a total of 16 weeks with a total of 350 points available. Grades will be assigned on the basis of the following weights:

POSSIBLE POINTS	FINAL GRADES
Quizzes            100	90 -100 % = A
Assignments       75	80 - 89 % = B
Class Participation 25	70 - 79% = C
Exams <u>200</u>	60 - 69 % = D
<b>Total 400 points</b>	Less than 60% = F

**CHEATING**

Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others

in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question, such as:

- copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment;
- communicating test information with another person during an examination;
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#### WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE

It is the responsibility of the student to officially withdraw from the course through the Office of Admissions and Records. If you stop actively participating in the course, it does not mean the instructor will drop you, *but she can at her discretion*. The last day to drop the course with a "W" is **April 13, 2013**. *You must officially drop the course yourself before the deadline or you will receive a grade on your official transcript.*

#### STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment; students who disrupt that environment can be asked to leave the course. Faculty and students also have the right of due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the [IVC General Catalog](#).

#### DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Room 2117, telephone 760-355-6312.

#### ACCESSIBILITY

Every effort has been made to ensure that this course is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you encounter a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact the instructor immediately.

#### SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER LESSONS

##### Week 1

Chapter 1: Criminal Law and Criminal Punishment: An Overview

**Week 2**

Chapter 2: Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law

**Week 3**

Chapter 3: The General Principles of Criminal Liability

**Week 4**

Chapter 4: The General Principles of Criminal Liability

**Week 5**

Chapter 5: Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications

**Week 6**

Chapter 6: Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuses

**Week 7**

Chapter 6: Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuses

**Week 8**

Chapter 7: Parties to A Crime and Vicarious Liability

**Week 9**

Chapter 8: Inchoate Crimes: Attempt, Conspiracy, and Solicitations.

**MIDTERM**

**Week 10**

Chapter 9: Crimes Against Persons I

**Week 11**

Chapter 10: Crimes Against Persons II

**Week 12**

**Spring Break/ No Classes**

**Week 13**

Chapter 11: Crimes Against Property

**Week 14**

Chapter 12: Crimes Against Public Order and Morals

**Week 15**

Chapter 13: Crimes Against the State

**Week 16**

**FINAL: MAY 6, 2013**