

Fundamentals of Criminal Law (CRIJ 1310) Online



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Complete the Online Orientation and answered 7+ questions correctly on the Online Learner Self-Assessment:
<http://www.lit.edu/depts/DistanceEd/OnlineOrientation/OOStep2.aspx>

Course Description

This course is the study of criminal law including application of definitions, statutory elements, defenses and penalties using Texas statutes, the Model Penal Code, and case law. The course also analyzes the philosophical and historical development of criminal law and criminal culpability. *This course is time-bound, structured and completed online.*

Required Textbook and Materials

1. *Criminal Law* by Lisa Storm, Lulu Publishing Services, ISBN: 9781483433837
 - a. *Textbook is available for free download on the internet*

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the elements of crimes and defenses under Texas statutes, Model Penal Code, and case law.
2. Classify offenses and articulate penalties for various crimes.
3. Compare culpable mental states when assigning criminal responsibility.
4. Assess the impact of history and philosophy on current criminal laws.
5. Evaluate the application of criminal law to other areas of criminal justice such as law enforcement and corrections.

Course Outline:

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| <p>A. Welcome to College:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction of faculty and students2. Meet your instructor3. What am I doing here? <p>B. LIT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Policies2. Academic calendar3. Physical facilities <p>C. Introduction to Criminal Law</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure2. The Difference between Civil and Criminal Law3. Classification of Crimes4. The Purpose of Punishment5. Sources of Law | <p>D. The Legal System in the United States</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Federalism2. The Branches of Government3. The Court System4. The Burden of Proof <p>E. Constitutional Protections</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Applicability of the Constitution2. The Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses3. Freedom of Speech4. The Right to Privacy5. The Right to Bear Arms6. Excessive Punishment <p>F. The Elements of a Crime</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Criminal Elements2. Criminal Intent |
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CRIJ 1310 Online
Course Syllabus

- 3. Causation and Harm
- G. Criminal Defenses, Part I
 - 1. Criminal Defenses
 - 2. Self Defense
 - 3. Other Use-of Force Defense
 - 4. Defenses based on Choice
 - 5. Consent
- H. Criminal Defenses, Part 2
 - 1. The Insanity Defense
 - 2. Infancy, Intoxication, Ignorance, and Mistake
 - 3. Entrapment
- I. Parties to Crimes
 - 1. Parties to Crimes
 - 2. Vicarious Liability
 - 3. Accessory
- J. Inchoate Offenses
 - 1. Attempt
 - 2. Conspiracy
 - 3. Solicitation
- K. Criminal Homicide
 - 1. Homicide
 - 2. Murder
 - 3. First-Degree Murder
 - 4. Felony Murder
 - 5. Second-Degree Murder
- 6. Manslaughter
- L. Sex Offenses and Crimes Involving Force, Fear, Fear, and Physical Restraint
 - 1. Sex Offenses
 - 2. Assault and Battery
 - 3. Domestic Violence and Stalking
 - 4. Kidnapping and False Imprisonment
- M. Crimes against Property
 - 1. Nonviolent Theft Crimes
 - 2. Extortion, Robbery, and Receiving Stolen Property
 - 3. Crimes that Invade or Damage Property
- N. Crimes against the Public
 - 1. Quality of Life Crimes
 - 2. Crimes Targeting Group Conduct
 - 3. Vice Crimes
- O. Crimes Against the Government
 - 1. Crimes Involving National Security
 - 2. Crimes Involving Terrorism
 - 3. Perjury, Bribery, and Obstruction of Justice

Grade Scale

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

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| 1. | Assignments | 50% |
| 2. | Course Project | 20% |
| 3. | Exams | 30% |

Course Policies

1. You must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.
2. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
3. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. If you stop logging-in to the course and do not complete the course drop process, then you will receive an “F” grade for the course
4. Internet Usage – Students are expected to use proper net etiquette while participating in course emails, assignment submissions, and online discussions.

Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at:

[https://help.blackboard.com/en-](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1)

[us/Learn/9.1](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1) 2014 04/Student/015 Browser Support/015 Browser Support Policy A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the online resource:

<http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx>

Student Code of Conduct Statement

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office.

Starfish

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

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