

Fundamentals of Criminal Law (CRIJ 1310)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

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.

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 this course, the student will 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

1. Welcome to College:
 - a. Introduction of faculty and students
 - b. Meet your instructor
 - c. What am I doing here?
2. LIT
 - a. Policies
 - b. Academic calendar
 - c. Physical facilities
3. Introduction to Criminal Law
 - a. Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure
 - b. The Difference between Civil and Criminal Law
 - c. Classification of Crimes
 - d. The Purpose of Punishment
 - e. Sources of Law
4. The Legal System in the United States
 - a. Federalism
5. Constitutional Protections
 - a. Applicability of the Constitution
 - b. The Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses
 - c. Freedom of Speech
 - d. The Right to Privacy
 - e. The Right to Bear Arms
 - f. Excessive Punishment
6. The Elements of a Crime
 - a. Criminal Elements
 - b. Criminal Intent
 - c. Causation and Harm
7. Criminal Defenses, Part I
 - a. Criminal Defenses
 - b. Self Defense
 - c. Other Use-of Force Defense
6. The Branches of Government
- c. The Court System
- d. The Burden of Proof

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- d. Defenses based on Choice
- e. Consent
- 8. Criminal Defenses, Part 2
 - a. The Insanity Defense
 - b. Infancy, Intoxication, Ignorance, and Mistake
 - c. Entrapment
- 9. Parties to Crimes
 - a. Parties to Crimes
 - b. Vicarious Liability
 - c. Accessory
- 10. Inchoate Offenses
 - a. Attempt
 - b. Conspiracy
 - c. Solicitation
- 11. Criminal Homicide
 - a. Homicide
 - b. Murder
 - c. First-Degree Murder
 - d. Felony Murder
 - e. Second-Degree Murder
 - f. Manslaughter
- 12. Sex Offenses and Crimes Involving Force, Fear, Fear, and Physical Restraint
 - a. Sex Offenses
 - b. Assault and Battery
 - c. Domestic Violence and Stalking
 - d. Kidnapping and False Imprisonment
- 13. Crimes against Property
 - a. Nonviolent Theft Crimes
 - b. Extortion, Robbery, and Receiving Stolen Property
 - c. Crimes that Invade or Damage Property
- 14. Crimes against the Public
 - a. Quality of Life Crimes
 - b. Crimes Targeting Group Conduct
 - c. Vice Crimes
- 15. Crimes Against the Government
 - a. Crimes Involving National Security
 - b. Crimes Involving Terrorism
 - c. 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:

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

Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Computers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class or used only with permission of the instructor.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. No late assignments will be accepted.
5. Tests. Students that miss a test are not allowed to make up the test. Students that miss a test will receive a grade of '0'.

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6. Attendance Policy. Two absences are allowed. If a student is tardy to class or departs early three (3) times, it will be equal to one (1) absence. Each absence beyond two absences will result in a 5 point deduction from your final grade.
7. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
8. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

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 office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building. You may also visit the online resource at <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. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document

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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