



Purpose: It is the intention of this Administrative-Master Syllabus to provide a general description of the course, outline the required elements of the course and to lay the foundation for course assessment for the improvement of student learning, as specified by the faculty of Wharton County Junior College, regardless of who teaches the course, the timeframe by which it is instructed, or the instructional method by which the course is delivered. It is not intended to restrict the manner by which an individual faculty member teaches the course but to be an administrative tool to aid in the improvement of instruction.

Course Title – Fundamentals of Criminal Law

Course Prefix and Number – CRIJ 1310

Department – Criminal Justice

Division - Social & Behavioral Science

Course Type: (check one)

- Academic General Education Course (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)
- Academic WCJC Core Course
- WECM course (This course is a Special Topics or Unique Needs Course: Y or N)

Semester Credit Hours # : Lecture Hours # : Lab/Other Hours # 3:3:0

Equated Pay hours for course - 3

Course Catalog 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.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites – TSI satisfied in Reading and Writing

List Lab/ Other Hours
Lab Hours
Clinical Hours
Practicum Hours
Other (list)

Prepared by Linda Clark

Date 2-28-14

Reviewed by Department Head Linda Clark

Date 2-28-14

Accuracy verified by Division Chair Amanda Shelton

Date 3/6/14

Approved by Dean or Vice President of Instruction *gg hunt*

Date 3/17/14



I. Topical Outline – Each offering of this course must include the following topics (be sure to include information regarding lab, practicum, clinical or other non-lecture instruction):

- A. The nature and history of criminal law
- B. Criminal Liability: Inchoate Offenses and Parties to Crime
- C. Justification as Defenses
- D. Excuses as Defenses
- E. Insanity Defense
- F. Crimes Against Persons: Homicide, Assaults
- G. Crimes Against Property: Larceny, Theft, Computer Crime
- H. Public Order Offenses
- I. Model Penal Code
- J. Effect of criminal law on policing and corrections

II. Course Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes	Methods of Assessment
<p>Upon successful completion of this course, students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions</p> <p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions</p> <p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions, paper</p> <p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions, paper</p> <p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions, paper</p>

III. Required Text(s), Optional Text(s) and/or Materials to be Supplied by Student.

Schmallegger, Frank, Hall, Daniel E., (2014) *Criminal Law Today 5/E* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall; *Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual, 2013-2014 edition, Published by LexisNexis*

IV. Suggested Course Maximum - 35

V. List any specific spatial or physical requirements beyond a typical classroom required to teach the course.

none

VI. Course Requirements/Grading System – Describe any course specific requirements such as research papers or reading assignments and the generalized grading format for the course

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

Tests/quizzes 40-60%
Legal/systems analysis paper(s) 15-30%
Homework 10-20%
Discussions 10-20%
Attendance 5-10%

VII. Curriculum Checklist

- **Academic General Education Course** (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)
No additional documentation needed

- **Academic WCJC Core Course**
Attach the Core Curriculum Review Forms

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Empirical & Quantitative Skills
- Teamwork
- Social Responsibility
- Personal Responsibility

- **WECM Courses**
If needed, revise the Program SCANS Matrix & Competencies Checklist.