



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.

Course Title – Fundamentals of Criminal Law

Course Prefix and Number – CRIJ 1310

Department – Criminal Justice

Division - SBS

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

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

Course Catalog Description - The nature of criminal law including philosophical and historical development, major definitions and concepts, classification of crime, elements of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations, and criminal responsibility.

Prerequisites/Corequisites - THEA reading and writing requirements met.

Approvals – the contents of this document have been reviewed and are found to be accurate.

Prepared by G.G. Hunt	Signature <i>ghunt</i>	Date 9-17-07
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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

II. Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcome	Method of Assessment
1. Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law 2. Identify definitions and concepts of criminal law 3. Identify the classifications of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes 4. Discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes	All learning outcomes are measured by unit exam and successful completion of practical application of case study and scenarios at the conclusion of each unit of study.

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

A textbook of the department's choosing by reputable authors published by a reputable publisher that contains up-to-date information on the topics outlined in section I.

The Textbook currently used by the department is:

Criminal LAW Today, 3rd Edition

Schmallegger

Prentice-Hall Publisher

ISBN 0-13-170287-4

Additional titles selected by the instructor are made available in the library. Primary documents may be distributed to students, made available from instructor website, or placed on reserve in the library.

IV. Suggested Course Maximum - 35

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

Instructor must have access to all appropriate technology for the online section of this course

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

Students in Criminal Justice courses must have a 70% average to receive a passing grade!

Grading System:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

F = 0-69

Minimum requirements include the following:

1. Attend class in accordance with college policy and as stipulated by the instructor.
2. Complete appropriate reading assignments made by the instructor
3. Complete appropriate writing assignments based on the readings, classroom presentations and discussion (if assigned by instructor)
4. Complete oral presentations (if assigned by instructor)
5. Complete appropriate tests (quizzes, major examinations, and a final examination)
6. Completion of assigned case scenarios/appllications

Assessment will be conducted using a variety of methods. Objective questions such as multiple-choice, matching, true/false and fill-in-the blank may be used as well as subjective questions which may demand lengthy narrative responses, and also critical thinking as applied to application-based and scenario-based assignments. Students will be tested on materials presented in class and are expected to develop listening and note-taking skills. The weight, style, and nature of the specific assessment tool is left to the discretion of the individual instructor, but each instructor must place emphasis on the development of critical thinking skills.

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 Checklist, including the following:

- Basic Intellectual Competencies
- Perspectives
- Exemplary Educational Objectives

- **WECM Courses**

Attach the following:

- Program SCANS Matrix
- Course SCANS Competencies Checklist