

Montgomery County Community College
CJS 105
Criminal Law
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the origins and functions of the substantive criminal law of Pennsylvania; a survey and analysis of the elements of major offenses in common law and under modern penal codes, and the available defenses; a consideration and discussion of leading judicial interpretation of penal codes and criminal law.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

None

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Explain the nature, purpose, and constitutional context of criminal law.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis
2. Explain the history of criminal law and the sources of contemporary criminal law jurisprudence including common law, the Model Penal Code, the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, and case precedents.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Properly cite criminal statutes and criminal case law rulings.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis
4. Analyze and brief criminal appellate case rulings, differentiating among: the material facts of the case; its procedural history; the key issue or issues facing the court and the relevant legal rule or definition to be applied by the court; the court's final ruling on the matter; and its rationale.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis
5. Explain the principles of criminal responsibility, and demonstrate knowledge of the five components required to establish criminal liability.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
6. Demonstrate understanding of the responsibilities and components of liability of the various parties of crimes, including accomplice liability, accessory liability, vicarious liability, and inchoate crimes.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the principal affirmative defenses in criminal law.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis
8. Describe the statutory requirements for proving the principal crimes against persons, including assault, homicide, and sexual crimes.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
9. Describe the statutory requirements for proving the principal crimes against property, including habitations, and including the white-collar crimes of embezzlement, theft by deception, identity theft, car theft, and car-jacking.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis
10. Describe the statutory requirements for proving the principal crimes against public order, morality, and the state.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis
11. Exhibit proficiency in research skills and written and oral communication within the conceptual framework of understanding the interaction of the various components of the American criminal justice system.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions IRAC Case Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded IRAC Case Analysis

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. The Nature and Limits of Criminal Law
2. Constitutional Limits
3. General Principles of Criminal Liability: The notion of actus reus
4. General Principles of Criminal Liability: mens rea, concurrence, and causation
5. Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications
6. Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuses
7. Parties to Crime & Vicarious Liability
8. Inchoate Crimes: Attempt, Conspiracy, Solicitation
9. Crimes Against Persons: Criminal Homicide
10. Crimes Against Persons: Sexual Assaults, Bodily Injury, and Personal Restraint
11. Crimes Against Property: Theft, Robbery, Burglary
12. Crimes Against Property: White Collar Crimes incl. Embezzlement, Theft by Deception, Identity Theft, Theft of Intellectual Property
13. Crimes Against Public Order & Morals
14. Crimes Against the State

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Samaha. Joel. (2016). *Criminal Law* (12th ed.). Cengage/Wadsworth.

Textbooks are retained or changed at the discretion of the division. The decision to retain or change a textbook will be effective with the Fall term. When a textbook is retained, its latest edition will be adopted as of the Fall term.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Donald A. Nypower	Date: 5/12/1995
Revised by: Angela M. Ambers-Henderson	Date: 10/1998
Revised by: Benn Prybutok	Date: 5/28/2008
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr.	Date: 9/11/2009

Revised by: Benn Prybutok	Date: 2/23/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 2/27/2013

Revised by: Jayden Sampson	Date: 12/17/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 12/17/2017



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.