

**DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGY**  
**Fundamentals of Criminal Law CRIJ 2364.02**  
**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Fall 2017 ONLINE**

**Instructor:** Dave Barber

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I am an off campus adjunct and do not have an office at Sam. But if you email me with a concern, we'll arrange a phone conversation. I am at Sam from time to time and can meet in person if you want to.

I've noticed that students in previous classes have had some confusion about what to call me. I am not a Ph.D so please don't call me Doctor. As an adjunct with a Master's Degree, I probably don't qualify for the title of professor either. I realize many of you would be uncomfortable calling me Dave because of my age and position in the class and I'm not comfortable being called Mr. Barber. So here's a quick fix. Call me Chief. If you'll look at the instructor information tab you'll see why the title is appropriate. I'm still called Chief by many of my previous associates and colleagues and the moniker works for me. Hope it's OK for you as well.

**Required Textbooks/ Readings:**

*Texas Criminal Law: Principles and Practices*, 2nd Edition by Jerry L. Dowling. Pearson Publishing. This text is required

*Texas Penal Code*. We will reference the code but purchasing a copy is not required since it is readily available on line.

**Course Description:**

This is a course in substantive criminal law which includes definition of law, definition of crime, general principles of criminal responsibility, elements of the major crimes, punishments, conditions or circumstances which may excuse from criminal responsibility or mitigate punishment, the court system of Texas and the United States, basic concepts of criminal law with emphasis on the penal law of the State of Texas.

**Course Objectives:**

We will work together to make sure you walk away from this competent in the below areas.

1. Students will understand the evolution of modern Texas Criminal Law from its English Common law roots.
2. Students will understand the philosophies and concepts that underpin Texas Criminal law.
3. Students will be able to define terms used in Texas Criminal law.

4. Students will be able to explain the workings of Texas Criminal law from charges filed to the penalty phase.
5. Students will be able to explain the application of specific law found in the Texas Penal Code.

### **Course Requirements:**

I would suggest that you maintain a schedule of logging in several times a week. An on line class differs from a face-to-face course in that you must pace yourself and complete your work independently. This is not as easy as it sounds. You must be organized and conscientious to complete the course successfully. We do not have the flexibility to adjust the course during the semester. Therefore, course work including discussions, quizzes and assignments will not be accepted late without penalty. Remember, lessons open up each Tuesday at 11:59 PM and all requirements are due the following Tuesday at 11:59 PM. You will not normally be able to go back and complete missed work once a session concludes.

**Computer & Internet.** Part of this class requires that you be able to regularly gain access to the World Wide Web. Please be sure to contact the SHSU Support Desk if you have any problems connecting or access materials or tools in this course (blackboard@shsu.edu or 936-294-2780).

Written assignments must be submitted in Times Roman 12 pt. font, double space, and standard margins. Submit your assignments, discussion, and quizzes directly into Blackboard unless otherwise instructed.

### **Grading: The breakdown of exam values and the final grading scale follows:**

Assignment/Item	#	Points per each	Total Points	%
Writing Assignments	12	100	1200	30
Quizzes	12	10	120	30
Discussion	12	100	1200	20
Final Exam	1	100	100	20

### **Make-up Exams:**

I do not offer makeup exams in the traditional sense for two reasons. One, graded work is not submitted on a fixed schedule other than sometime during the week which eliminates most of the need for a make-up date since you set the time. Two, after a lesson closes, I post a review in which I discuss the answers to the assignments. Obviously, I can't offer a make-up once the review is posted. However, there will be ample extra credit opportunities at the end of the semester that may compensate for missed work.

### **Course Policies:**

**Academic Honesty:** Students found cheating in the course will receive an “F” for the entire course. This policy includes all written / research assignments, quizzes, and the final. Cheating includes:

- passing your work off as someone else’s (taking a test or quiz for someone)
- passing someone else’s work off as your own (letting someone take a test or quiz for you)
- copying answers from someone else’s exam or quiz
- letting someone copy your answers from an exam or quiz
- turning in written work that has been copied from another source
- working with another student on written paper and using his or her words or ideas in your paper without credit.
- colluding with a student to complete an assignment in which all of the work for that assignment is not your own
- turning in any writing that is not IN YOUR OWN WORDS or correctly cited!

The University’s policy toward cheating and plagiarism can be found at the following website.  
[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf)

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the act of not properly crediting your sources of information through the proper utilization of textual citations and a source list. If it is not a product of your own, original research, your own original idea, thought, or words, you must cite your source in your text. You must also include a works cited list. Failure to do so will be considered academic dishonesty and will be dealt with as such.

**Disabled Student Policies and Service Information:** Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The physically impaired may contact the Director of Counseling Services as Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (extension 1720). For more information about University policy’s toward and services to disabled students see the links below.

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf)

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

**Sam Mail and Netiquite:** Use cautious discretion about what material you post or email to other students and make sure it pertains to the ongoing discussion or contributes to the general class discussion. Remember everyone in the class including the instructor can and will read your posts. Please keep sensitive information private, avoid vulgar, suggestive or offensive language, and keep all discourse civil.

### **Course Layout:**

Below is the weekly schedule for course completion. Each lesson contains an overview which gives you the topics covered in the lesson and the lesson objectives for the week. Students are responsible for the assigned readings and all lecture material covered in the class. Content from the readings and lectures will be included in the exams and quizzes. Quizzes are in multiple choice format.

Start Dates Point	End Dates	Lesson	Pages	Stop
08/22 11:59 PM		Orientation	N/A	08/29 11:59 PM
08/29 11:59 PM		One [1]	1-38	Culpable
09/05 11:59 PM		Two [2]	38-74	
09/12 11:59 PM		Three [3]	78-121	
09/19 11:59 PM		Four [4]	131-167	
09/26 11:59 PM		Five [5]	178-212	
10/03 11:59 PM		Six [6]	217-240	Fraud
10/10 11:59 PM		Seven [7]	240-280	Crim. Tress
10/17 11:59 PM		Eight [8]	280-321	
10/24 11:59 PM		Nine [9]	334-357	
10/31 11:59 PM		Ten [10]	370-400	Crim Instr
11/07 11:59 PM		Eleven [11]	400-422	Duress
11/14 11:59 PM		Twelve [12]	422-444	
11/21 11:59 PM		Study		
12/03 11:59 PM		Final		