

**DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE &
CRIMINOLOGY
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
CRIJ 2364.03**

Fundamentals of Criminal Law

FALL 2017

Instructor: David L. Tumlinson, IV, M.S.

Class Hours: Online

Office: None

E-mail: dlt013@shsu.edu

Credit Hours: 3

Classroom: Online

Phone: By Appointment ONLY

Always put "CRIJ 2364.03" in Subject Line when corresponding with me. In addition, please do not submit assignments by email unless first requested due to technological issues with Blackboard.

Required Textbook:

Criminal Law (Justice Series) Author: Jennifer L. Moore; John Worrall, University of Texas at Dallas ISBN-IO: 0133145573 • ISBN-13: 9780133145571 © 2015 • Prentice Hall • Paper, 264 pp Published 1/22/14

Texas Criminal Law: Principles and Practices Author 2d Edition: Jerry L. Dowling, Sam Houston State University ISBN 13: 978013351257 (978-0-13-351-257-1)

Supplemental Reading Material: ACCESS TO ANY CURRENT version of the Texas Penal Code. Several companies publish the penal code if you wish to have a hard copy. Make sure your copy is complete through the 2013-2015 legislative session. A digital copy of the current Texas Penal Code is available on the internet.

Course Description:

A course in the substantive criminal law which includes definition of law, definition of crime, general principles of criminal responsibility, elements of major crimes, punishments, and conditions or circumstances which may excuse from criminal responsibility or mitigate punishment. Particular emphasis is on the penal laws of the State of Texas.

Course Objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of the basic principles that underlie the American system of law;
2. Explain and distinguish the different types of crimes;
3. Familiarize themselves with the elements of the primary state criminal offenses as defined by the Texas Penal Code;
4. Identify and discuss the possible criminal liabilities, defenses and mitigations of different parties to a crime; and
5. Utilize and develop critical thinking in handling specific cases.

Course Requirements:

This online course will be delivered via an education software called Blackboard. It is important that the students have a computer/laptop and internet connection that work properly. For the technical requirements and the specifics about how to get started in the online class, please refer to the website "*Online Student Orientation*" at <http://distance.shsu.edu/current-students/orientation.html>

The class material will be presented by using PowerPoint slides posted online. The length of the PowerPoint slides varies depending on the complexity of the chapter content. Students are expected to REVIEW each slideshow in each Inning. Students are also expected to read the assigned readings, complete the Discussion assignments, take the quizzes and exam. When you have questions about the course content, feel free to email the professor. In addition, On-line Discussion Board is set up for each session to build a vibrant learning community and to promote class interactions. Students' participation in class discussion is voluntary and will NOT be graded.

Students will be informed of the class updates, changes and new developments by means of mass emails and class announcements. It is important for the students to check the SHSU email accounts for the class updates on a frequent basis.

Grading:

Your grade will not be curved or bartered. It is recommended that you monitor your own progress. To protect your privacy, grades will not be discussed via phone, email, or anywhere other than in the professor's office.

A: 100-90% B: 89-80% C: 79-70% D: 69-60% F: <59

Exam: (75%) Two exams will be based on the course material. The exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The exams are designed to assess knowledge, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. The final exam must be completed December 6, 2017 by 11:59pm. While the exams are "open book" and students are permitted to use notes and the textbook, the exams are timed and it will be impossible to locate the answers without having read the material in advance. To do well on exams, students should view PowerPoints and complete assigned reading before beginning the exam.

Discussions: (25%) The discussion questions for this class are based on the **Your Decision** questions posed within the chapters of the Criminal Law textbook. The first assignment will ask you to introduce yourself so that you can become familiar with the layout and assignment. After that first one, for each discussion assignment, you will be provided with 3 or 4 questions in the assigned chapters, and given a choice of which **Your Decision** question you would like to answer, and then reply on another student's post (but, reply must be a different question than you answered. Hopefully with such a small class you all will answer a different question). These are designed to promote critical thinking about the subject matter you are learning about.

Participation must be more than trivial, e.g. substantive and substantial (3-4 sentence paragraph at minimum); did you support your belief; and for bonus professor appreciation, can you relate the question to wording in the Texas Penal Code (e.g. In Texas, this situation would be under Sec. 42.03) Note: Written information drawn from a source other than the textbook must always be cited. There is a total of 10

discussion assignments that are graded at 30 points each (20 points for post and 10 points for student replies, meaning maximum of five (5) points per reply post on another student's original post).

Original posts will be due at 11:59pm on THURSDAY evenings and the comment must be submitted before 11:59pm on the following SUNDAY. Late original posts will NOT be accepted after THURSDAY evenings and will be given a -0-.

The EXCEPTION to this will be the first original post, which is the Student Introduction and will be due by Sunday, August 27, 2017 at 11:59PM.

Replies on discussion posts: Given that discussions work best when students contribute to other posts, students are required to respond to two (2) other student's original posts for each of the five (5) discussions (each worth 5 points). Student replies must be meaningful in nature. In other words, please do not respond with a "I agree" or "I disagree". Replies must be submitted before 11:59pm on the Sunday evening that they are due. Once again, late comments will NOT be accepted.

It is very important to read all original posts and replies before posting so you do not repeat content. Do not attempt to stop a discussion, but rather move it forward. Be respectful of others who disagree with you.

Therefore you **MUST** submit **1** original post and **2** reply posts per discussion for a maximum of thirty (30) points!

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams will be at the discretion of the professor based on communication between the student and professor.

Technical:

This course requires regular access to the Internet, Microsoft Word, and Adobe PDF files. If you do not know how to use blackboard, or if you encounter technical difficulties with the course website, contact the DELTA Center 24/7 helpdesk (1-877-870-9214 or helpdesk@shsuonline.net)

STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Technical Support:

For questions about Blackboard or technical issues with videos, assignments, or tests, please contact SHSU Online Support Desk:

Technology Call Center:

Phone: (936) 294-2780

Toll Free: (877) 759-2232

Dedicated personnel available:

Monday - Friday

7:00 am – Midnight CST

Saturday

8:00 am – 8:00 pm CST

E-mail: blackboard@shsu.edu

Chat & Twitter with the Support Desk:

Monday - Friday, 7am - Midnight CST

Saturday 8 am to 8 pm CST

For questions about your email account, or password assistance, please refer to the IT@Sam Help Desk:

Phone: (936) 294-1950

Email: helpdesk@shsu.edu

Monday – Friday 7:00am – Midnight CST

Saturday 8:00 am – Midnight CST

Make sure the date of your final exam coincides with the SHSU Finals Schedule

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/final-exam-schedules.html>

**I CANNOT EXPRESS ENOUGH TO NOT GET BEHIND IN THE
ASSIGNED READINGS!**

WEEK DUE	ASSIGNMENT	SPECIFIC READINGS
	STUDENT INTRODUCTION DUE BY 11:59PM ON AUGUST 27, 2017	
8/28 – 9/3	Chapter 1: Foundations of Criminal Law Chapter 2: Limitations on the Criminal Law	
	DISCUSSION #1 DUE BY 11:59PM ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2017	
	SCHOOL HOLIDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2017	
9/4 – 9/10	Chapter 3: The Elements of Criminal Liability	
	Texas Foundations of Criminal Law (Ch. 1) Texas Elements of a Crime (Ch 2)	Pgs 1-14; 19-22 Pgs 30-36; 44-51

	DISCUSSION #2 DUE BY 11:59PM ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2017	
9/11 – 9/17	Chapter 4: Justification Defenses; Chapter 5: Excuse Defenses	
	DISCUSSION #3 DUE BY 11:59PM ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2017	
9/18 – 9/24	Chapter 6: Complicity and Vicarious Liability	
	DISCUSSION #4 DUE BY 11:59PM ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2017	
9/25 – 10/1	Texas Parties to Offenses (Ch 4) Texas General Defenses and Justification (Ch 15)	Pgs 78-84 Pgs 412-426; 429-440
	NO DISCUSSION DUE THIS WEEK EXAM #1 WILL BE OPEN OCTOBER 5 TH THROUGH OCTOBER 7 TH	
10/9 – 10/15	Chapter 7: Inchoate Crimes Chapter 8: Homicide	
	DISCUSSION #5 DUE BY 11:59PM ON OCTOBER 15, 2017	
10/16 – 10/22	Chapter 9: Assaultive Offenses Texas Criminal Homicide (Ch 5) Texas Assault and Sexual Assault (Ch 6)	
	DISCUSSION #6 DUE BY 11:59PM ON OCTOBER 22, 2017	
10/23 – 10/29	Texas Kidnapping and Related Offenses (Ch 7) Texas Robbery (Ch 10a) Texas Preparatory Offenses (Ch 14)	Pgs 259-268 Pgs 387-395
	DISCUSSION #7 DUE BY 11:59PM ON OCTOBER 29, 2017	

10/30 – 11/5	Chapter 10: Property Damage and Invasion Chapter 11: Theft and Analogous Offenses	
	DISCUSSION #8 DUE BY 11:59PM ON NOVEMBER 5, 2017	
11/6 – 11/12	Chapter 12: Public Order, Morality and Vice Crimes Chapter 13: Terrorism and Offenses against the State Criminal Law in Daily Practice (Ch 3) Texas Intoxication Offenses (Ch 13)	
	DISCUSSION #9 DUE BY 11:59PM ON NOVEMBER 12, 2017	
11/13 – 11/19	Texas Property Destruction Offenses (Ch 8) Texas Theft, Fraud, & Related Offenses (Ch 9) Texas Burglary and Criminal Trespass (Ch 10b) Texas Public Disorder, Indecency, Health and Safety Offenses (Ch 12)	
	DISCUSSION #10 DUE BY 11:59PM ON NOVEMBER 19, 2017	
11/20 – 11/26	ENJOY YOUR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS – NO READINGS OR DISCUSSIONS DUE THIS WEEK	
11/27 – 12/1	Criminal Law in Daily Practice (Ch 3) Texas Intoxication Offenses (Ch 13)	
	FINAL EXAM WILL OPEN ON DECEMBER 4, 2017 AT 12:30AM AND WILL CLOSE ON DECEMBER 6, 2017 AT 11:59PM	