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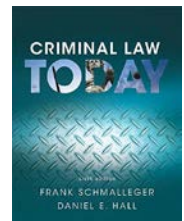
Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology  
CRIJ 2364-06  
Fundamentals of Criminal Law  
Fall 2017

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Class Hours: Online  
Classroom: Online  
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**TEXTBOOK (REQUIRED)**

1. Schmallegger, F., & Hall, D. (2016). Criminal Law Today (6th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Pearson.



Instead of a printed textbook, this course uses Pearson REVEL (online resource) which contains important assignments and resources used throughout the semester. The publisher provides free access to this e-book. Students who want to purchase the print edition (ISBN-13: 9780134437392) should check with the professor before ordering.

**Please follow these instructions to activate your free REVEL account:**

1. Start from your Blackboard course.
2. Under COURSE CONTENT in the left navigation, select Week 1: Getting Started.
3. Select Open REVEL.
4. If you have a Pearson account, enter your username and password. Otherwise, create a new account.
5. When your accounts are linked, select this access option: **Redeem an access code purchased from the bookstore.**
6. Enter the access code provided by your professor.
7. Your REVEL content will appear.
8. To go back to Blackboard (look for the Blackboard tab or window in your browser). That's it. Every week, please access your REVEL content through Blackboard.

**Need help with REVEL?**

If you have trouble getting access, first make sure your laptop or other device is [set up](#) to work with REVEL. If you need further assistance, then call REVEL support (855) 875-1801 or visit <https://support.pearson.com/getsupport>

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course covers substantive criminal law, which includes an overview of law, definition of crime, general principles of criminal responsibility, elements of major crimes, punishments, and conditions or circumstances which may excuse criminal responsibility or mitigate punishment. Particular emphasis is placed on Texas penal law.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

1. Understand the purpose and fundamental principles of criminal law in the United States.
2. Explain and distinguish different types of crime.
3. Find and use resources to explore criminal law in depth.
4. Discuss various defenses and mitigation of criminal responsibility.
5. Apply course material to critically assess cases involving possible criminal liability.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Online class participation, exams, weekly chapter reading and quizzes, and writing assignments (discussion boards and journal reflections).

### **GRADING:**

Grades will be based on the following:

| Graded Content            | % of Final Grade | Date       |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Exam 1                    | 10%              | October 1  |
| Exam 2                    | 20%              | October 29 |
| Exam 3 (Final)            | 20%              | December 6 |
| Writing Assignments       | 25%              | Weekly     |
| Chapter Reading & Quizzes | 25%              | Weekly     |

Grading scale:

- A = 89.5%–100%
- B = 79.5%–89.4%
- C = 69.5%–79.4%
- D = 59.5%–69.4%
- F = 59.4% and below

Students are highly encouraged to track their progress throughout the semester via Blackboard. Under no circumstance will requests for extra points or “grade-bargaining” be allowed.

### **CHAPTER READING AND QUIZZES – 25%**

Students are expected to access REVEL to complete chapter readings and quizzes every week. The goal of the quizzes is to ensure you are keeping up with the reading and to identify areas where you need to “study smarter” for exams. Quizzes will become available one week before they are due. There will be 14 chapter quizzes throughout the semester.

### **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS – 25%**

Writing assignments include discussion boards and journal reflections. Writing assignments should be posted by 11:59pm on the due date. Late assignments will be graded as 0. Grades and feedback will be posted in Blackboard within one week after the assignment due date.

#### **Journal Reflections**

There are four journal reflection assignments throughout the semester. Journal reflection posts are not public – only you and the professor will see them. The purpose of reflection assignments is to strengthen students' retention of material and critical thinking skills. Reflection prompts and instructions will be posted in the weekly course content in Blackboard one week before the due date. Using the Blackboard journal tool (located in the weekly course content), each question should be answered with a minimum of two full sentences. Students will be graded based on the depth of their responses, completeness (i.e., adequately answering question prompts), and quality of writing.

#### **Discussion Boards**

There are eight discussion board forums throughout the semester. Discussion board posts are visible to the professor and every student enrolled in the course. The purpose of discussion boards is to encourage interaction and exchange ideas. Discussion board prompts and instructions will be posted in the weekly course content in Blackboard one week before the due date. Using the Blackboard discussion board (located in the weekly course content), students must post their thoughts about the questions and respond to at least two other students' posts. Original posts must be at least one paragraph (i.e., about 5 full sentences) and comments must be at least two sentences and must respond to the content of the original post. Students will be graded based on the content of their posts, timeliness, engagement, and quality of writing. All students are expected to use appropriate language and respect the views of others. Rude or abusive posts will result in an automatic 0 for the assignment.

### **EXAMS – 50%**

There are three exams in this class. Each exam will cover prior reading and outline materials. Exam review outlines will be posted in the weekly course content in Blackboard one week before the exam. For exam dates and topics included in the exam see the [Outline of Topics to be Covered Each Week\\*](#).

**MAKE-UP EXAMS** are only possible when:

- (1) There is an emergency or other university-approved reason that makes it necessary for the student to miss the exam.
- (2) The student notified the professor in writing prior to missing the exam. If the emergency makes it impossible for the student to provide notification before the exam, then written notification must be provided within 5 days of the missed exam.

If the above conditions are not met, then the student will receive a zero grade for the test.

**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>

**USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES**  
<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

**OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED EACH WEEK\***

Due dates for assignments are also posted in the Blackboard course calendar.

| Week   | Start Date | Topic                                                               | Reading/Assignment<br>Due by 11:59pm on due date                                                                               | DUE DATE |
|--------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Week 1 | 8/23       | Introduction to the Course                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Icebreaker Activity</li> <li>Syllabus</li> <li>Activate REVEL account</li> </ul>        | 8/27     |
| Week 2 | 8/28       | Ch. 1: The Nature & History of Criminal Law                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 1: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Discussion Board Posts</i></li> </ul>         | 9/3      |
| Week 3 | 9/4        | Ch. 2: Criminal Liability & the Essence of Crime                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 2: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Discussion Board Posts</i></li> </ul>         | 9/10     |
| Week 4 | 9/11       | Ch. 3: Expanding the Concept of Crime                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 3: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Journal Reflection 1</i></li> </ul>           | 9/17     |
| Week 5 | 9/18       | Ch. 4: Expanding Criminal Liability: Inchoate Offenses              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 4: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Discussion Board Posts</i></li> </ul>         | 9/24     |
| Week 6 | 9/25       | Ch. 5: Justifications and Defenses                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 5: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li>Exam 1 Review</li> <li><b>EXAM #1</b></li> </ul> | 10/1     |
| Week 7 | 10/2       | Ch. 6: Defenses: Excuses and Insanity                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 6: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Discussion Board Posts</i></li> </ul>         | 10/8     |
| Week 8 | 10/9       | Ch. 7: Crimes Against Persons: Homicide                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 7: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Journal Reflection 2</i></li> </ul>           | 10/15    |
| Week 9 | 10/16      | Ch. 8: Crimes Against Persons: Assault, Sex Offenses & Other Crimes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 8: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Discussion Board Posts</i></li> </ul>         | 10/22    |

| Week    | Start Date | Topic                                                                 | Reading/Assignment<br>Due by 11:59pm on due date                                                                               | DUE<br>DATE |
|---------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Week 10 | 10/23      | Ch. 9: Property & Computer Crimes                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 9: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li>Exam 2 Review</li> <li><b>EXAM #2</b></li> </ul> | 10/29       |
| Week 11 | 10/30      | Ch. 10: Offenses Against Public Order & the Administration of Justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 10: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Discussion Board Posts</i></li> </ul>        | 11/5        |
| Week 12 | 11/6       | Ch. 11: Offenses against Public Morality                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 11: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Journal Reflection 3</i></li> </ul>          | 11/12       |
| Week 13 | 11/13      | Ch. 12: Terrorism and Human Trafficking                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 12: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Discussion Board Posts</i></li> </ul>        | 11/19       |
| Week 14 | 11/20      | Ch. 13: Victims & the Law                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 13: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Discussion Board Posts</i></li> </ul>        | 11/26       |
| Week 15 | 11/27      | Ch. 14: Punishment & Sentencing                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 14: Reading &amp; Quiz</li> <li><i>Journal Reflection 4</i></li> </ul>          | 12/3        |
| Week 16 | 12/4       | Review for Final Exam                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>FINAL EXAM due Wednesday December 6 by 11:59pm</b></li> </ul>                        | 12/6        |

\* This syllabus is subject to change. You will be notified of any change by email and/or Blackboard.