

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Criminal Justice Program
Revision Date: 08-18-25

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: CRIM2000
Course Title: Criminal Law
Prerequisite(s): None

Catalog Description: This course provides an in-depth examination of the principles and application of substantive criminal law in the United States. Students will explore the sources and purposes of criminal law, the essential elements of crimes, and the distinctions between various categories of offenses, including crimes against persons, property, and public order. Emphasis is placed on concepts of criminal liability, defenses, constitutional protections, and the role of statutes and case law in shaping legal outcomes. Through case studies, class discussion, and applied problem-solving, students will develop the ability to analyze legal issues critically and apply legal reasoning to factual scenarios.

Credit Hours: 3.0
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Outline the basic tenets from which criminal law is derived
- B. Use legal terminology
- C. Interpret the principles of inchoate crimes: attempt, conspiracy, and solicitation
- D. Compare crimes against public order, morals, and the state
- E. Illustrate the general principles of criminal liability
- F. Summarized the nature and limitations of defense to criminal liability
- G. Compare crimes against persons
- H. Examine the limitations of constitutional law
- I. Explain vicarious liability and parties to crime
- J. Compare crimes against property
- K. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
- 1. **Explain** the sources, purposes, and fundamental principles of criminal law in the United States.
 - 2. **Differentiate** between categories of crimes and identify the essential elements required to establish criminal liability.
 - 3. **Apply** concepts such as actus reus, mens rea, causation, and defenses to analyze hypothetical case scenarios.
 - 4. **Evaluate** constitutional protections and their impact on criminal statutes and the rights of the accused.
 - 5. **Interpret** statutory language and judicial decisions to understand how criminal law is developed and applied.
 - 6. **Compare and contrast** substantive and procedural aspects of criminal law and their roles in the justice system.

7. **Demonstrate** critical thinking and effective communication through written assignments, case briefs, and class discussions.

B. General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs):

1. GELO 1: Speech Communication
Outcome 4: Competently communicate messages – both verbally and nonverbally – to a variety of audience types and in a variety of situations.
2. GELO 2: Written Communication
Outcome 5: Read and write in mechanically-sound, college-level English.
3. GELO 3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
Outcome 3: Evaluate ideas presented in writing, media, speech, or artistic presentations.
4. GELO 6: Career and Life Skills
Outcome 7: Demonstrate choices that reflect personal responsibility in one's academic, civic, social, and vocational/professional life.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- A. Criminal Law: Purposes, Scope, and Sources
- B. Jurisdiction
- C. Essential elements of a Crime
- D. Criminal Liability
- E. Criminal Responsibility and the Capacity to Commit a Crime
- F. The Law Governing the Use of Force
- G. Other Criminal Defenses
- H. Criminal Punishments
- I. Free Speech, Street Crimes, and the Bill of Rights
- J. Homicide
- K. Assault, Battery, and Other Crimes Against the Person
- L. Sexual Assault, Rape, Prostitution, and Related Sex Crimes
- M. Theft
- N. Robbery, Burglary, and Related Crimes
- O. White-Collar Crime, Cyber Crime, and Commercial Crime
- P. Drug Abuse and Alcohol-Related Crimes
- Q. Terrorism
- R. Organized Crime and Gangs
- S. Immigration Crimes, Contempt, and Other Crimes Against Government

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s): Gardner, Thomas J., Anderson, Terry M., Criminal Law, Current Edition, Cengage.
- B. Other Resources: Vary by instructor

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following: Lecture, Electronic Presentation, Demonstrations, Video/Audio Presentations, Case Studies, Field Trips, Website(s), Course books, Articles, Collaborative Discussion, Group Projects, Other resources

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following: Practical Application, Homework Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Papers & Presentations, Discussion, Other Projects
- B. SCC STANDARD GRADING SCALE POLICY:

A+	95-100	C+	75-79
A	90-94	C	70-74
B+	85-89	D+	65-69
B	80-84	D	60-64

F Below 60

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. See individual instructor's course outline.