

Virginia Western Community College
LGL 218
Criminal Law

Prerequisites

Successful completion of all 100 level LGL courses or divisional approval.

Course Description

Focuses on major crimes, including their classification, elements of proof, intent, conspiracy, responsibility, parties, and defenses. Emphasizes Virginia Law. May include general principles applicable, constitutional law and criminal procedures.

Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: 0

Required Materials**Textbook:**

McGraw-Hill's Criminal Law for Paralegals, McGraw-Hill Higher Education, ISBN: 978-0-07-337696-7

Other Required Materials:

Students will need a computer capable of accessing Blackboard through the VWCC system. Students are required to use Blackboard for this course.

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Explain the differences between civil and criminal law
- Define the term crime and the theories of punishment associated with it
- Identify the types of searches that can be conducted without a warrant
- Understand Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendment rights
- Discuss the actus reus and mens rea requirements of a crime, and explain the importance of proving each element of a particular law
- Identify the elements of each type of homicide and their differences
- Discuss the elements of various crimes against the person
- Identify and distinguish among the different types of crimes involving property
- Differentiate the various crimes against habitation, such as burglary, trespass, arson, and mischief

- Explain the elements of the crime of complicity, and discuss the role of accomplice
- Define inchoate crimes and explain the crime of attempt
- Identify the different defenses available to criminal defendants and apply them to various factual scenarios
- Identify common crimes against the state, public order, and morality
- Discuss various criminal procedures prior to trial, such as arrest and plea bargaining, and recognize the various types of pretrial motions
- Understand the steps and procedures necessary to the workings of a criminal trial
- Identify the goals of sentencing, and explain post-trial procedures and appeals

Topical Description

Chapter 1: Sources of Criminal Law

Chapter 2: Constitutional Requirements for Criminal Procedure

Chapter 3: Elements of the Criminal Act

Chapter 4: Homicide

Chapter 5: Crimes against the Person

Chapter 6: Crimes Involving Property

Chapter 7: Crimes against Habitation

Chapter 8: Complicity

Chapter 9: Inchoate Crimes

Chapter 10: Defenses

Chapter 11: Crimes against the State, Public Order, and Morality

Chapter 12: Criminal Procedures Leading up to Trial

Chapter 13: An Overview of a Criminal Trial

Chapter 14: Sentencing and Post-Trial Procedures

Notes to Instructors

None