

**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 procedure. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**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 Canvas through the VWCC system. Students are required to use Canvas 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