

Virginia Western Community College

ADJ 130

Introduction to Criminal Law

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Surveys the general principles of American criminal law, the elements of major crimes, and the basic steps of prosecution procedure.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: 0

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas

Textbook:

Principles of Criminal Law, 7th edition Author: Wallace ISBN# 978-0-135-18628-2

Other Required Materials:

None

Course Outcomes

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

- Acquire a general understanding of the basic requirements for a criminal act
- Identify different types of criminal offenses including lesser offenses
- List the classical elements of the major criminal offenses in the United States
- Articulate inchoate, anticipatory, and conspiracy offenses
- Process how crimes are punished
- Comprehend the methodology of sentencing guidelines and minimum/maximum sentences
- Acquire a basic understanding of the defenses available to those accused of crimes
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the constitutional limitation on criminal liability, including due process, equal protection and double jeopardy.

Topical Description

1	Actus Reus
2	Mens Rea
3	Intent Causation and Presumptions
4	Classical Elements of the Major Criminal Offenses in the U.S.
5	Inchoate, Anticipatory and Conspiracy Offenses
6	Methodology of Sentencing
7	Discretion of Judges
8	Criminal Defenses
9	Constitutional Limitation on Criminal Liability
10	Due Process
11	Equal Protection
12	Double Jeopardy

Notes to Instructors

[ADA Statement \(PDF\)](#)

[Title IX Statement \(PDF\)](#)