

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: CRJU 205

Year: 2023-2024

Course Title: Concepts of Criminal Law

Credit Hours: 3

I. Course Description: In this course, criminal law is analyzed with an emphasis on the statutory classifications of crime and the elements necessary to establish a crime and criminal intent. Students read and analyze court cases which examine penal statutes and discuss constitutional implications and become familiar with both the common law and statutory definitions and applications. Prerequisites: C or better grade in CRJU 105; prior completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, ENGL 101. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Fall semester.

II. Additional Course Information:

1. This course is required for all Criminal Justice AAS and AS students.
2. This course may be taken as an Unrestricted Elective by other students and is valuable for those interested in criminal justice or related careers, including but not limited to paralegal students. Students should consult with their academic advisor to determine applicability to their program requirements.
3. This course is offered both on campus and asynchronously online.

III. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the process to find the statutory elements of a crime.
2. Apply the elements of crimes to draft accusatory instruments.
3. Determine which crimes and degrees thereof apply to complex fact patterns.
4. Explain the application of holdings of court cases.

IV. Tompkins Cortland General Education & SUNY Competency Goals

☒ Critical thinking (Tompkins Cortland GE Goal; SUNY Competency)

Students are given fact pattern scenarios and need to determine which crimes can be charged, notwithstanding possible defenses, and which defenses could apply. Logic and intuition, deductive, and inductive reasoning are applied. Students need to be familiar with the penal law to determine which crimes apply, how each element is relevant, and what degree of a crime is appropriate, as well as knowing the application of both factual and affirmative defenses to crimes.

☒ Social/Global Awareness

In learning the myriad penal laws, students become familiar with the legislative intent to reach societal goals by criminalizing certain behaviors in legislation addressing hate crimes and terrorism.

☒ Information Management

Students will access the penal law both in print and electronically, and will search and find statutes to apply them properly.

☐ This course does not address either of these Tompkins Cortland or SUNY General Education Goals.

V. Essential Topics/Themes

1. Penal Law Definitions
2. Elements of Crimes
3. Parties to Crimes
4. Defenses
5. Inchoate Offenses/Attempts
6. Homicide & Related Offenses
7. Assault and Crimes Against the Person
8. Larceny and Robbery
9. Burglary and Trespass
10. Other Crimes

VI. Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
1. Weekly Assignments: requiring short answer and brief essays including both fact retrieval and application of penal law. Typically best 10 of 13.	30-70%
2. Exams: cumulative exams. Exams include short answer, multiple choice, and essay, or some combination. Typically best 3 of 4.	15-50%
3. Attendance and participation: Attendance is required in person or online as per college policy and instructor design. Discussion participation should be required.	5-30%
4. Optional projects: Individual or group projects as designed by the instructor.	10-30%

VII. Texts – ☒ Required ☐ Recommended ☐ Used for more than one course (list courses)

1. John M. Scheb, <i>Criminal Law</i> , 7 th Edition, Cengage Learning, 2014, ISBN-13:978-1285459035 ISBN-10: 1285459032
OR
2. McDonough, Kathleen. <i>CRJU 205 Study Guide</i> , TC3 Duplication and <i>NY Penal Law 2020</i> (below)

☐ Required ☒ Recommended ☐ Used for more than one course (list courses)

1. <i>NY Penal Law 2020</i> , Looseleaf Law Publications, ISBN-13: 978-0930137021m ISBN-10: 0930137027 (OR any other unannotated statutes in print, for easier reference than online resources)

Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.

VIII. Bibliography of Supplemental Materials

1. Joel Samaha, <i>Criminal Law</i> 12 th Edition, Cengage Learning, 2016.
2. Norman M. Garland, <i>Criminal Law for the Criminal Justice Professional</i> , 5 th Ed., 2020, McGraw-Hill Education.
3. Ronald J. Bacigal, <i>Criminal Law and Procedure</i> , 4 th Edition, Cengage Learning, 2014.
4. Thomas J. Gardner, Terry M. Anderson, <i>Criminal Law</i> , 13 th Ed., Cengage Learning, 2017.
5. Cliff Roberson, Harvey Wallace, <i>Principles of Criminal Law</i> , 6 th Ed., Pearson, 2015.

Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.

IX. Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual:	None specified
Electronic:	https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/PEN http://ypdcrime.com/penal.law/ http://nyscriminallaws.com/penal.law/index_compact.htm
Other:	None specified

Attendance Policy: To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.

Services for Students with Disabilities: It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for academic adjustments. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.

Academic Integrity: Every student at Tompkins Cortland Community College is expected to act in an academically honest fashion in all aspects of his or her academic work: in writing papers and reports, in taking examinations, in performing laboratory experiments and reporting the results, in clinical and cooperative learning experiences, and in attending to paperwork such as registration forms.

Any written work submitted by a student must be his or her own. If the student uses the words or ideas of someone else, he or she must cite the source by such means as a footnote. Our guiding principle is that any honest evaluation of a student's performance must be based on that student's work. Any action taken by a student that would result in misrepresentation of someone else's work or actions as the student's own — such as cheating on a test, submitting for credit a paper written by another person, or forging an advisor's signature — is intellectually dishonest and deserving of censure.

Several degree programs offer student learning opportunities (such as internships, field work, and clinical experiences) outside the standard classroom setting. As part of the learning process, students must understand and engage in conduct that adheres to principles guiding employment within the professional workplace. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, academic integrity, accountability, reliability, respect, use of appropriate language and dress, civility, professional ethics, honesty, and trustworthiness. Disciplinary action may be initiated for inappropriate conduct occurring while participating in any course-related project or event.