

**CJSA 1327**  
**Fundamentals of Criminal Law**  
**Western Texas College**

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Description: A study of the nature of criminal law; philosophical and historical development; major definitions and concepts; classification of crime; elements of crime and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations; criminal responsibility.
- B. Prerequisites: None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

- A. Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law
- B. Describe definitions and concepts of criminal law, classifications of crimes, the elements of offenses, and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations
- C. Discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to criminal statutes

III. Online Testing Requirements

- A. Course exams must be proctored by an approved testing organization. (Ask your instructor for more details.)
- B. Students are not allowed to use their book or notes of any kind while taking their proctored tests and exams.

IV. Major Course Requirements: The grade for this course will be determined as follows:

- A. Exams: 30%
- B. Assignments: 30%
- C. Quizzes: 25%
- D. Discussions: 15%
- E. Grading scale:
  - A= (90-100%)
  - B= (80-89%)
  - C= (70-79%)
  - D= (60-69%)

V. Information on Books and Other Course Materials

- A. Title: Criminal Law
  - a. Authors: Joel Samaha
  - b. Edition: 12th
  - c. Publisher: Cengage
  - d. ISBN-13: 9780357691465

B. Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual

- a. Publisher: LexisNexis
- b. ISBN-13: 9781663322715

VI. Other Policies, Procedures and important dates: Please refer to the WTC Course Catalog for the following:

- A. Campus Calendar
- B. Final exam schedule
- C. How to drop a class
- D. Withdrawal information
- E. Student Conduct/Academic Integrity
- F. Class Attendance
- G. Students with disabilities

VII. Course Sequence & Content

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Week 1	<b>Course Overview</b>
Week 2	Chapter 1. Criminal Law and Punishment in U.S. Society: An Overview  Quiz 1
Week 3	Chapter 2. Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law  Quiz 2
Week 4	Chapter 3. The Criminal Act: The First Principle of Criminal Liability  Discussion 1  Assignment 1
Week 5	Chapter 4. The General Principles of Criminal Liability  Quiz 3
Week 6	Chapter 5. Defenses to Criminal Liability I: Justifications  Discussion 2
Week 7	Chapter 6. Defenses to Criminal Liability II: Excuses  Quiz 4
Week 8	Chapter 7. Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability  Mid-term Exam
Week 9	Chapter 8. Inchoate Crimes  Assignment 2

Week 10	Chapter 9. Crimes Against Persons I: Murder and Manslaughter
Week 11	Chapter 10. Crimes Against Persons II: Sex Offenses, Bodily Injury, and Personal Restraint  Quiz 5
Week 12	Chapter 11. Crimes Against Property
Week 13	Chapter 12. Crimes Against Public Order and Morals  Discussion 3
Week 14	Chapter 13. Crimes Against the State  Quiz 6
Week 15	Assignment 3 Discussion 4 Course Review
Week 16	<b>Final Exam</b>

Disclaimer: Sequence & Content is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.