Course Number: CRJ 202  
Course Title: Criminal Law  
Credits: 3

Hours:  
lecture/Lab/Other: 3 lecture hours

Co- or Pre-requisite: None

Implementation: Spring/2016

Catalog description (2015-16 Catalog):
Examines the evolution and development of criminal laws as well as the nature of crime, basic principles of criminal law, plus defenses, and court presentation.

Is course New, Revised, or Modified? Revised

Required texts/other materials:
Reference Business and Technology Course List.

Revision date: Spring 2016

Course coordinator:
Cavit Cooley  
(609)570-3625  
cooleyc@mccc.edu

Information resources:
Reference Criminal Justice Library Materials List

Other learning resources: No tutoring or study groups at this time.

Course Competencies/Goals:
The student will be able to:

1. Categorize and interrelate the process of criminal law through common law, constitutional law, statutory law and case law.
2. Distinguish between substantive and procedural criminal law.
3. Evaluate, categorize, classify, interrelate, and identify crimes as to seriousness, parties, elements and degree of completion.
4. List, describe and demonstrate ramifications of the factors which lessen criminal responsibility.
5. List the elements of specific crimes and determine the specific crime committed when presented with a complicated fact situation.
6. Analyze and criticize the use of criminal law in areas of social concern.

Course-specific General Education Knowledge Goals and Core Skills.

**General Education Knowledge Goals**

- **Goal 1. Communication.** Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
- **Goal 2. Mathematics.** Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.
- **Goal 3. Science.** Students will use the scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.
- **Goal 4. Technology.** Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.
- **Goal 5. Social Science.** Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.
- **Goal 6. Humanities.** Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.
- **Goal 7. History.** Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.
- **Goal 8. Diversity.** Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.
- **Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action.** Students will understand ethical issues and situations.

**MCCC Core Skills**

- **Goal A. Written and Oral Communication in English.** Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading.
- **Goal B. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving.** Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.
- **Goal C. Ethical Decision-Making.** Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.
- **Goal D. Information Literacy.** Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.
- **Goal E. Computer Literacy.** Students will use computers to access, analyze or present information, solve problems, and communicate with others.
- **Goal F. Collaboration and Cooperation.** Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.
- **Goal G. Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility.** Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

**Units of study in detail.**

MCCC Core Skills A, B, C, D, E, F, and G are addressed in the following Units of Study. This Course is not designated as a General Education Course.

The course is divided into the following seven units in which the student will explore the evolution and development of criminal law, basic principles of criminal law and of the criminal justice system and a comparison of Common Law crimes and present day New Jersey crimes.

1. Basic Constitutional and Criminal Justice Principles
2. Sources of Criminal Law
3. Definition and elements of crime
4. Accomplice Liability
5. Preliminary Crimes
6. Property Crimes
7. Personal Crimes
The student will be able to:

Unit 1: Basic Constitutional and Criminal Justice Principles

Explain and define the basic principles of criminal law and criminal justice, including Burden of Proof, Reasonable Doubt, Presumption of Innocence, Due Process.

Explain and define the rights and protections of the Bill of Rights, including the protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, the right to counsel, self-incrimination, compulsory process, confrontation, speedy trial, grand jury, double jeopardy, Due Process.

Criticize, analyze and apply the Bill of Rights as it relates to the procedural aspects of criminal law.

Unit 2: Sources of Criminal Law

Identify and explain the sources of modern criminal law

Differentiate between substantive and procedural criminal law.

Classify crimes with regard to seriousness, procedure, social harm

Delineate and define the theories/philosophical justifications for punishment

Understand and evaluate the moral underpinnings of criminal law

Understand and apply the principles relating to the permissible scope of criminal laws within the constitutional principle of the police power of the state.

Unit 3: Definition and elements of crime

Define and explain the principle of criminal law that an “Act (Actus Reus) + Intent (Mens Rea) = Criminal Liability” and explain in detail the requirements of Actus Reus, Mens Rea and Causation.

Unit 4: Accomplice Liability

Describe and distinguish the development of the principles of accomplice liability from the English Common Law to the New Jersey Criminal Code.

Distinguish between principals and degrees of accessories.

Unit 5: Preliminary Crimes

Identify and explain the five stages of a crime.

Define and distinguish between the preliminary crimes of Conspiracy, Solicitation and Attempt.

Explain the similarities and differences between the elements of Common Law preliminary crimes and New Jersey Criminal Code preliminary crimes.
Unit 6: Property Crimes

Define, list the elements of, evaluate, criticize, analyze, explain and identify those crimes which are classified as property crimes including Burglary, Larceny/Theft, Robbery and Arson.

Explain the similarities and differences between Common Law and New Jersey Criminal Code Property crimes.

Unit 7: Personal Crimes

Define, list the elements of, evaluate, criticize, analyze, explain and identify those crimes which are classified as Personal including Bias Intimidation, Terrorism, Assault and Homicide.

Explain the similarities and differences between Common Law and New Jersey Criminal Code Assault and Homicide.

**Evaluation of student learning:**

Students should be given a variety of opportunities for course participation. This should include oral discussions and or presentations, examinations, and research writing. The student will be given at least two (2) examinations during the course of the term with the dates and format to be decided by the instructor. Examinations should include an essay component. Students will be given adequate advance notice of the dates and the topics in each examination. The student may also be required to write at least one research assignment. The research assignment will be a book review of an important work in criminal law, a summary of an interview with any primary worker in the field of criminal law, or a research paper on a specific issue in criminal law. The percentage of examinations, the research paper, and class participation in the computation of each student’s grade will be determined by the instructor.

**Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92 %</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89 %</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86 %</td>
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<td>F</td>
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Teaching-learning methods employed shall include lectures, discussions supplemented by appropriate related texts, and audio-visual media. Guest speakers (practitioners) and other academicians are considered to be beneficial to keep the course current and meaningful. Field trips when and wherever possible may be utilized.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Mercer County Community College is committed to Academic Integrity -- the honest, fair and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. This implies that students are expected to be...
responsible for their own work and that faculty and academic support services staff members will take reasonable precautions to prevent the opportunity for academic dishonesty. The complete academic policy and implications can be found at http://mlink.mccc.edu/omb/OMB210.pdf.