Instructor
W. Bruce Johnson, Ph.D.
Criminal Justice Faculty
Northeast College/Northline Campus
Room 320
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Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 7:30 am - 8:00 am; between the 8:00, 9:20, and 11:00 am classes; 12:30 pm-1:00 pm

Course Description
Study of criminal law, its philosophical and historical development, major definitions and concepts, classifications and elements of crime, penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations, and criminal responsibility.

Course Student Learning Outcomes
Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law; describe definitions and concepts of criminal law and the classifications of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations; list the elements of crimes using the Texas statutes as an illustration; and discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes.

1. Defining Crime
2. Principles of Criminal Liability
3. Capacity and Defenses
4. Preparatory Activity Offenses
5. Offenses Against Persons – Excluding Sex Offenses
6. Offenses Against Persons – Sex Related
7. Offenses Against Property – Destruction and Intrusion Offenses
8. Offenses Involving Theft
9. Forgery and Other Fraud Offenses
10. Offenses Involving Morality and Decency
11. Offenses Against Public Peace
12. Offenses Against Justice Administration
13. Corporate and Computer Crime

SCANS and Curriculum Competencies
Reading, writing, critical thinking.
Academic Discipline Program Learning Outcomes
Students who complete the HCC criminal justice program of study should be able to:
1. Articulate key concepts in criminology and criminal justice.
2. Inquire, analyze, and apply research to criminal justice agency operations.
3. Communicate thoughts, ideas, and facts clearly and accurately.
4. Demonstrate a commitment to ethical and legal obligations of criminal justice professionals.
5. Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits by completing assignments on time and working productively with others.

Textbooks

Credit
Three (3) Semester Hours, Undergraduate.
Contact Hours: 48
Length of Course: 16 weeks

Course Goals
This course is designed to assist students in the attainment of and demonstration of the following:

1. Students will learn elements of crimes and defenses.
2. Students will learn how to analyze facts, statutes, and court decisions.
3. Students will learn how to research statutes and cases.
4. Students will examine ethical issues in the legal system.

Grading
Tests: There will be four exams covering the chapters of the text and class discussions. The exams will be short answer and/or multiple choice. The lowest grade will be dropped. These will be averaged together and will account for the final grade. Students are expected to be on time for tests. Anyone late on a test day (any time after the tests are handed out) will have 1 point deducted for each minute late. If you are not able to be in class on test day, notify me in advance or before the test is finished. If not, you will not be able to take a make-up test.

Extra Credit:
Attendance: Tardiness is disruptive for the rest of the class. Every two tardies will count as one absence. No absences will add 5 points onto your final average, 2 absences will add 3 points, and 3 absences will add 1 point. After the third absence, 1 point will be taken from your final grade average for each absence.
Determining Grade: Grading will conform to the uniform system of HCC.
90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
0 - 59 = F

I generally do not give an “I” for incomplete work. If there is something going on that prevents you from completing your work on time, please let me know so that I may work with you.

Course Schedule (Tentative)
Week of 08-17-12: Overview, Texas Legal Guidelines
Week of 09-03-12: No class Monday (Labor Day) Title 1
Week of 09-10-12: Title 2
Week of 09-17-12: Test 2, 3, 4
Week of 09-24-12: Test (thru Title 4) Title 5
Week of 10-01-12: Title 5
Week of 10-08-12: Title 5, 6
Week of 10-15-12: Test (thru Title 6), Title 7
Week of 10-22-12: Title 7
Week of 10-29-12: Title 7
Week of 11-05-12: Title 7
Week of 11-12-12: Test (thru Title 7) Title 8
Week of 11-19-12: No class Thursday (Thanksgiving) Title 8
Week of 11-26-12: Title 9, 10
Week of 12-03-12: Title 9, 10
Week of 12-10-12: Finals (thru Title 10)

Note: Reality rarely follows this schedule.

Cell Phones
Your instructor believes that using cell phones, especially texting, in class is rude and unprofessional. Keep your cell phones off the desk in a purse or bag, on silent. If you receive a call that is important, please take the call outside the classroom. If you are texting in class or playing on the phone, you will be asked to leave for the day.

Laptops and iPads
Some students are able to use these to enhance their learning in class. Others find them useful for entertainment purposes. I do not mind them for the former reasons, but not for the latter reasons. If I find you are using these items for non-education purposes, you will not be allowed to bring them to class.

Dress
People employed in any law enforcement or law related field must dress professionally. Anyone whose dress is deemed inappropriate for class will be told to leave.
Learning Activities
This class is primarily organized around the textbook. However, students must keep up on current affairs in the field. When you watch the news, television programs, or movies that relate to our field, think critically about the issues involved and how they relate to your reading. These will be the topics you will be writing about and discussing in class.

Houston Community College

Access Student Services Policies on their Web site:
http://hccs.edu/student-rights

Academic Integrity

HCC is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming a part of the academic community, students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. Failure to uphold these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following: plagiarizing written work or projects, cheating on exams or assignments, collusion on an exam or project, and misrepresentation of credentials or prerequisites when registering for a course. Cheating includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, orally communicating or receiving answers during an exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment, using unauthorized notes, texts, or other materials for an exam, and obtaining or distributing an unauthorized copy of an exam or any part of an exam. Plagiarism means passing off as his/her own the ideas or writings of another (that is, without giving proper credit by documenting sources). Plagiarism includes submitting a paper, report or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part. Collusion is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently. These definitions are not exhaustive. When there is clear evidence of cheating, plagiarism, collusion or misrepresentation, disciplinary action may include but is not limited to: requiring you to retake or resubmit an exam or assignment, assigning a grade of zero or "F" for an exam or assignment; or assigning a grade of "F" for the course. Additional sanctions including being withdrawn from the course, program or expelled from school may be imposed on a student who violate the standards of academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and could result in failure. If you are caught cheating on a test, you will receive an automatic F in the course. During exams, all cell phones and other electronic equipment must be off and removed from desks.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement

HCC is dedicated to providing the least restrictive environment for all students. We promote equity in academic access through the implementation of reasonable accommodations as required by the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) which will enable students with disabilities to participate in and benefit from all post-secondary educational activities.
If you require reasonable accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the Counseling Office to obtain the necessary information to request accommodations. Upon completion of this process, please notify your instructor as soon as possible and preferably before the end of the first two weeks of class to arrange for reasonable accommodations.

HCC Course Withdrawal Policy

The State of Texas imposes penalties on students who drop courses excessively. Students are limited to no more than SIX total course withdrawals throughout their educational career at a Texas public college or university.

To help you avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, contact your professor regarding your academic performance. You may also want to contact your counselor to learn about helpful HCC resources (e.g. online tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc.). HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor may “alert” you and DE counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance.

After the deadline to drop yourself, you MUST provide an email request to your professor, PRIOR to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. After the withdrawal deadline has passed, you will receive the grade that you would have earned. Zeros averaged in for required coursework not submitted will lower your semester average significantly, most likely resulting in a failing grade of an “F”. It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the class; however, your professor reserves the right to withdraw you without your request due to excessive absences. If you do not feel comfortable contacting your professor to withdraw, you may provide a written request to Counseling. However, please do not contact both a counselor and your professor to request a withdrawal; either one is sufficient.

International Students
Contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8520 if you have questions about your visa status.

Students With Disabilities
Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the appropriate HCC Disability Support Service (DSS) Counselor at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

Students who are requesting special testing accommodations must first contact the appropriate (most convenient) DSS office for assistance:
Disability Support Services Offices:
System: 713.718.5165
Central: 713.718.6164 – also for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and Students Outside of the HCC District service areas.
Northwest: 713.718.5422
Northeast: 713.718.8420
Southeast: 713.718.7218
Southwest: 713.718.7909
After student accommodation letters have been approved by the DSS office and submitted to DE Counseling for processing, students will receive an email confirmation informing them of the Instructional Support Specialist (ISS) assigned to their professor.

**Notice for Students Outside of HCC Service Area**
Students who live or work outside the HCC service area and cannot take paper exams at one of our HCC testing locations MUST make arrangements for a proctor. Please see the DE Student Services Additional Resources webpage for more information.

**Sexual Harassment**
It is a violation of HCC policy for an employee, agent, or student of the College to engage in sexual harassment as defined in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) guidelines. Any student who has a complaint concerning this policy has the opportunity to seek resolution of such a complaint in accordance with procedures set forth in the Student Handbook. Report any complaints immediately to College Administration.

**EGLS3 (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System)**
At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the EGLS3 as part of the Houston Community College Student System available online November 28, 2011.