

San José State University
College of Health and Human Sciences
Department of Justice Studies
JS144 Criminal Law
Section 1 Spring 2020

Instructor:	Harold W. Peterson, JD
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Office Hours:	Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 am to 11:45 am
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 520
JS Competency Area:	C: Critical Inquiries

Course Catalog Description

Historical development of philosophy of law and constitutional provisions, legal definitions, classifications of crime, case law, methodology and concepts of criminal as a social force.

Course Description

From property crimes to homicide, this course will explore the fundamental elements to crimes in the United States, their historical progression, constitutional limitations as well as the specific defenses to them. In addition, the course will survey the general principles of criminal liability including the ideas of *mens rea* and *actus reas*. Moreover, students will learn the various degrees of criminal liability including intentional, reckless and negligent conduct its concurrence and causation as weora777(s)-Hi2.55 Tm0 G[ne)7(gl)i925,84causatd Sp

crimes against the government, including treason, sedition, sabotage, espionage and terrorism.

1. **Historical Perspective:** The course will survey the historical components to specific crimes in the United States as well as a chronological review of statutory and case law associated with such crimes.
2. **Legal Analysis:** The course will provide an analytical review of the basic elements of specific crimes pursuant to federal and state statutes and the common law, specifically the evolution and interpretation of such law by the US Supreme Court and the state courts. In addition, the analysis will include an in-depth look at the reasons and criminal law in the United States.
3. **Discussion:** The course will facilitate discussion of issues concerning criminal law, crimes and the development of such law within the criminal justice system.

Course Goals and Course Learning Outcomes

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

CLO 1 - Articulate the nature and limits of criminal law in the United States.

CLO 2 - Understand the Constitutional limitations regarding criminal law such as the void-for-vagueness and Equal Protections doctrines.

CLO 3 - Understand concepts of *mens rea* and *actus reas*.

CLO 4 - Apply the principles of causation, concurrence and vicarious liability to certain fact situations.

CLO 5 - Master the elements of specific crimes against persons and property as well as defenses to such crimes.

CLO 6 - Brief cases from the textbook in a format that identifies the facts, legal issues, holdings and the

Course Requirements

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty- five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Students are expected to complete all reading assignments before their discussion in class. In addition, students are responsible for the individual cases contained in textbook and when called upon are required to recite the specific case in class. Students shall receive a maximum of 50 points for their initial case recitation and a maximum of 25 points for each additional case for a maximum of 100 points towards their participation grade. Student may also receive additional participation points for various exercises identified in class by the instructor. THESE EXERCISES ARE NOT EXTRA CREDIT BUT SHALL ONLY

Textbook:

Lippman, M. R. (2018) (5th ed). *Contemporary Criminal Law, Concepts, Cases and Controversies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc. The text is available at the campus bookstore. Supplemental readings assigned by topic and held on e-reserve at the library. **ISBN-13:** 978-1544308135

Justice Studies Reading and Writing Philosophy: The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

Classroom Protocol

+/- Grading:

arrangements in case of building evacuation, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the AEC (Accessible Education Center) to establish a record of their disability. For more information call their office at 408-924-6000 (v) or 408-924-5990 (TTY).

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays: San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See

level

- < Academic Success Center in Clark Hall, on the first floor next to the Computer Lab
- < The Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village B.

SJSU Writing Center: The SJSU Writing Center located in Room 126 in Clark Hall offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, including one-on-one tutoring sessions and numerous writing workshops. All of the services are free for SJSU students. <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

CASA Student Success Center: The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA Departments and Schools. All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. If you are looking for academic advice or even tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU, check out the CASA Student Success Center. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: 408.924.2910. Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>. The CASA Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.

	Thursday 1/23	Reading: <i>Lippman:</i> Lecture & Discussion: <i>Introduction; Syllabus; Class Mechanism</i>
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Thursday **Reading:** *Lippman:*
3/5

