

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE SYLLABUS

AJS 109 SUBSTANTIVE CRIMINAL LAW
Credit Hours: 3 Lec 3

NOTE: AJS 101 recommended

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Substantive criminal law covers the historical development of common law to modern American criminal law as well as the philosophy of law. The classification of crimes, elements of and parties to a crime, and criminal responsibility issues are covered.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 To introduce the student to the historical and philosophical background of American criminal law.
- 1.2 To explore and apply the fundamental concepts of criminal law emphasizing the criminal act, the mental element, and criminal responsibility.
- 1.3 To recognize and apply the component elements of criminal statutes to factual situations.

2. OUTCOMES

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

- 2.1 define and list characteristics of law.
- 2.2 distinguish between a civil action and a criminal action.
- 2.3 list and explain the three components of a crime and their relationship to criminal responsibility.
- 2.4 distinguish between civil law and common law systems.
- 2.5 describe the historical development of common law and statutory law.
- 2.6 identify the chief sources of American law to include the English common law system, federal and state constitutions, statutory law, and case law from court decisions.
- 2.7 compare and contrast morality and legality.
- 2.8 identify and explain methods of classification of crimes.
- 2.9 distinguish between felonies, misdemeanors, and ordinance violations.
- 2.10 define *ex post facto* and recognize examples of *ex post facto* situations.
- 2.11 define and explain the concept of *corpus delicti*.
- 2.12 identify and explain the basic elements of a crime to include the *actus reus*, the *mens rea*, and the concurrence of the act with the required mental state.
- 2.13 define and identify the types of causation including proximate cause and superseding cause.
- 2.14 identify and apply the three methods used to determine proximate cause.
- 2.15 identify the culpable states of mind including intent, recklessness, and negligence.
- 2.16 discuss strict liability crimes.
- 2.17 identify and explain the defenses against criminal responsibility to include insanity, intoxication, minority, duress, religious belief and self defense.
- 2.18 define and give examples of inchoate crimes including solicitation, conspiracy and attempt.
- 2.19 use appropriate statutory codes and manuals to determine the elements of a crime and classifications of offenses.
- 2.20 distinguish between common law assault and statutory assault.
- 2.21 define and explain the elements of crimes against persons including assaults, homicides, sexual offenses, kidnapping and robbery.
- 2.22 distinguish between justifiable homicides and criminal homicides, such as murder, voluntary and involuntary manslaughter, and negligent homicide.
- 2.23 distinguish between types of forcible rape and statutory rape.
- 2.24 discuss consent issues in relationship to sex offenses.
- 2.25 identify and define offenses against public health, safety and morality including adultery and fornication, incest, sodomy, bigamy, prostitution and obscenity.
- 2.26 identify the different kinds of theft under common and statutory law.

- 2.27 distinguish between robbery and burglary.
- 2.28 list and explain the elements of forgery and related offenses.

3. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 3.1 Interactive classroom lecture
- 3.2 Audio-visual presentations
- 3.3 Code/manual demonstrations
- 3.4 Student presentations

4. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 Small group discussion
- 4.2 Interactive classroom lecture discussion
- 4.3 Note and test taking
- 4.4 Short written assignments
- 4.5 Research assignments
- 4.6 Videos

5. EVALUATIONS

- 5.1 Grade will be earned by an assortment of learning activities, exams, assignments, and participation
- 5.2 Please see the class schedule and assignment sheet for more information

6. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 6.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
- 6.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 6.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 6.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
- 6.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for “No Show” reporting during the first 10 days of each semester.
Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid.
For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA

Handbook, 2012, 5-90):

- Submitting an academic assignment
- Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
- Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
- Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
- Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course