



RANGER COLLEGE  
STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

**Fundamentals of Criminal Law**

**CRIJ 1310**

**3 credit hours**

**Spring 2022**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

**John “JW” Galloway**

Instructor: John "JW" Galloway  
E-mail: jgalloway@rangercollege.edu  
Office: Virtual meetings by appointment

My primary contact will be through the above email address. I will respond within 24 hours Monday-Friday. If an email is sent over the weekend, I will do my best to respond quickly, however, the following Monday may be the earliest I can respond.

## **I. Texas Core Curriculum Statement of Purpose**

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundational knowledge of the development of the system of criminal law in the United States, its historical basis on English Common Law and other ancient codes, develop an understanding of how the criminal governs behavior and personal interactions in our society, and the elements that must be present in order for a specific crime to have occurred.

## **II. Course Description:**

The course is the study of the nature of law. Topics include philosophical and historical development, major definitions and concepts, classification of crime, elements of a crime, and penalties and individual criminal responsibilities.

## **III. Required Background or Prerequisite**

There are no prerequisites for this course, but a strong ability to read and a desire to learn about our system of laws will prove extremely helpful.

## **IV. Required textbook and Course Material**

**Schmallegger, F.J. and Hall, D. E.(2017). *Criminal Law Today* (6th ed). Upper Boston, MA: Pearson. ISBN #9780134163734**

## **V. Course Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a better understanding of our system of criminal law and its application. In today's "soundbite" society where so many receive their information via social media, misinformation is often times accepted as fact. This course sets out to dispel myths about the application of law and provide students with the knowledge to effectively analyze the process and outcomes of criminal cases they hear about in the news or acquire through social media outlets.

## **VI. Learning Outcomes**

Criminal law is the most serious approach used by society to control human behavior. As citizens grow increasingly fearful of becoming crime victims, the call for "tougher" criminal laws gets louder. Knowledge of the strengths and limitations of criminal law is integral to an understanding of the criminal and the field of criminology. On completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the history of laws in the American Criminal Justice system as it had derived from Common Law in England
- List the origins of criminal law
- Define *mens rea* and *actus reus*
- Identify the *mens rea* and *actus reus* of various crimes and case studies
- Be able to identify the specific elements of various types of crimes

## VII. Core Objectives

This course meets the following of the six Core Objectives established by Texas:

- ☒ **Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** – Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis; evaluation and synthesis of information
- ☒ **Communication Skills (COM)** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** – The manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Teamwork (TW)** – The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- ☒ **Social Responsibility (SR)** – Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- ☒ **Personal Responsibility (PR)** – The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

## III. Methods of Instruction

This class includes lectures, assigned readings, discussions and PowerPoints.

### Discussion

Each student will be responsible for posting a critically thoughtful response to a weekly discussion question. The work week for this course is Monday through Sunday. All weekly assignments are due no later than midnight Sunday in that work week.

All discussion responses must be substantive and express critical thinking on the given topic. Responses must be a **minimum of 200 words**. Your writing mechanics, grammar and referencing must reflect collegiate standards.

All assignments must be submitted no later than midnight on Sunday in that work week. Late assignments are typically not accepted. If you find that you are unable to complete an assignment by the due date, please notify me ahead of time to avoid grade penalties.

## **IX. Method of Assessment**

- 10 Discussion Questions 50 points each – 500
- 4 Quizzes 25 points each – 100
- Mid-Term Exam – 200
- Final Exam – 200

There will be no extra credit assignments for this class.

### Grading Scale:

900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
Below 600	F

## **X. Course/Classroom Policies**

Class attendance is mandatory. Discussion posts and responses will be recorded each week. Do not fall behind in the required number of posts each week. Students are responsible for reading chapters prior to each class meeting in preparation for class discussions and quizzes. In addition, students are asked to review current news items (newspaper, magazines, online news services, journals) pertaining to policing topics for use in weekly class discussions.

You are expected to read the assigned chapters. I strongly encourage a proactive strategy. Read ahead of the posted due dates on the schedule and post discussion responses on time. This is an online class that requires self-direction and motivation. If you do not keep up with assignment and appear disinterested, you will simply be asked to drop the course. Your preparation for reading assignments, weekly involvement, and examinations should reflect your academic commitment.

### **Statement on plagiarism and academic irregularities**

The following shall constitute academic irregularities:

- 1) The use of materials and devices such as notes, books, calculators, etc., while taking an examination unless specifically authorized by the instructor or assistance from or to other persons while taking an examination unless specifically authorized by the instructor -- acts defined as cheating.
- 2) The presentation of words or ideas from any other source as one's own -- an act defined as plagiarism.
- 3) Unauthorized obtaining, distributions or receiving material which is purported to be an examination, or part of an examination, without the consent of the instructor.
- 4) Taking of an examination for another person or having another person take an examination and presenting or having same presented as one's own exam.
- 5) Other activities which interfere with the educational mission within the classroom.
- 6) Submission of the same or essentially the same paper, project, assignment or finished product to an instructor which has been submitted to another instructor unless specifically authorized and consented to by both instructors.

Important:

It is important that you distinguish clearly between your own words and ideas and the words and ideas of other authors. Failure to do so may not only cause confusion for the reader, but may also result in PLAGIARISM - a serious violation of academic ethics.

IMPORTANT: To copy material (word-for-word) from a source without using quotation marks or using quotation marks without indicating exactly the source of your material is UNACCEPTABLE. To paraphrase another author's material - namely, putting it in your own words - without indicating exactly the source of this paraphrased material is also UNACCEPTABLE. Using another author's words or ideas and not giving that author credit is PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Getting help from a fellow student to solve a problem or to complete an assignment is not cheating. However, copying a major portion of an assignment from someone else (to get it done on time) or using someone else's work in any way is cheating in the form of plagiarism. If two or more students each turn in an assignment that is essentially a copy of another's work, this will be considered cheating. Instances of outright copying will result in no credit for the assignment for both the individual(s) who copied and the individual who was copied from (if known about).

### XI. Course Outline/Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading to Complete	Assignment Due
Week 1 Jan 18 <sup>th</sup> -Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Syllabus/ Nature and History of Crime	Chapter 1	Discussion #1
Week 2 Jan 24 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup>	Criminal Liability and the essence of crime	Chapter 2	Discussion #2
Week 3 Jan 31 <sup>st</sup> -Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Principles of criminality, causation, parties to crimes	Chapter 3	Quiz #1
Week 4 Feb 7 <sup>th</sup> -Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>		Chapter 4	Discussion #3
Week 5 Feb 14 <sup>th</sup> - Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	Types of defenses	Chapter 5	Discussion #4
Week 6 Feb 21 <sup>st</sup> - Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	Excuses and insanity	Chapter 6	Quiz #2
Week 7 Feb 28 <sup>th</sup> - March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Crimes against the person: Homicide/ Assault	Chapter 7	Discussion #5
Week 8 March 7 <sup>th</sup> - March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break	No Classes	

Week 9 March 14 <sup>th</sup> - March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Crimes Against Persons, sex offenses and other crimes	Chapter 8	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>
Week 10 March 21 <sup>st</sup> - March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Property and computer crimes	Chapter 9	Discussion #6
Week 11 March 28 <sup>th</sup> - April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Offenses against public order/	Chapter 10	Discussion #7 Quiz #3
Week 12 April 4 <sup>th</sup> - April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Offenses against public morality	Chapter 11	Discussion #8
Week 13 April 11 <sup>th</sup> - April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Terrorism and human trafficking	Chapter 12	Discussion #9
Week 14 April 18 <sup>th</sup> - April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Victims and the law	Chapter 13	Quiz #4
Week 15 April 25 <sup>th</sup> - May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Punishment and sentencing	Chapter 14	Discussion #10
Week 16 <i>Dates to be announced</i>	<b>FINAL EXAM MUST BE PROCTORED</b>		<b>Final Exam</b>

## XII. Non-Discrimination Statement

Admissions, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are nondiscriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

## XIII. ADA Statement

Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. Students are responsible for making initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor, Gabe Lewis (glewis@rangercollege.edu). It is advisable to make this contact before or immediately after the semester begins.