

## LEJ 201- Criminal Law

### Instructor

Jeffrey C. Wilson, J.D. (jwilson1@harpercollege.edu or jeff.wilson@coplaw.com)  
Law Enforcement and Justice Administration  
847-825-7744 (Office)      773-718-1200 (Cell)

### Course Dates

August 24, 2009 to December 15, 2009

Writing Assignment November 30, 2009

Final Examination December 7, 2009

Review of Final Examination December 14, 2009

### Classroom Hours

Monday (see calendar)  
6:30pm-9:05pm / Room H122D

### Office Hours

Meeting with student is an important aspect of a faculty member's job, and I take that seriously. I will be in the class room by at 6:00 or earlier on Mondays before class. If that is still not opportune, call me and we can set up a meeting during regular business hours at my office in Park Ridge. If you wish to e-mail me please include "LEJ-Crim Law" in the subject line so I know your e-mail is not spam.

### Course Description

Examines local, state, and federal criminal law. Topics include a definition of the crimes, their elements, and attendant circumstances and related defenses.

### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of the legal elements of criminal behavior.
2. identify the historical sources of criminal law in the United States.
3. recognize the constitutional authority and limitations of the power of government and its agents.
4. identify the legal protections provided to the accused citizen.
5. recognize appropriate obligations in the process of arrest and consequent responsibility.
6. show an awareness of the remedies available for the violation of civil rights.
7. define and explain selected criminal offenses such as:
  - a. inchoate offenses

- b. homicide
  - c. kidnapping
  - d. sex offenses
  - e. offenses causing bodily harm
  - f. property offenses
  - g. narcotics and controlled substances
  - h. weapons offenses
  - i. selected public order offenses and financial crimes
8. know that laws are frequently changed and/or updated. This includes state statutes, laws of arrest, search, and seizure. It is up to the court to decide if a police officer's arrest, search, and seizure techniques are proper and legal.
  9. know the most common criminal statutes that the police normally deal with. They will know laws are at every level of government, state, federal and local ordinances. Students will also learn who makes the laws and what affect the Supreme Court has on law.
  10. be aware that laws and procedures change over time and consent updates have to be researched to stay abreast of laws that will affect enforcement actions.
  11. be able to verbalize how the law and the U.S. Constitution will governor their behavior as police officers and why it is essential to stay within the limits set for them.

<b>Credit Hours</b>
---------------------

3.0 Credit Hours

<b>Course Texts and Materials</b>
-----------------------------------

- Criminal Law For The Criminal Justice Professional, Garland 09 Edition 2
- ISBN 0-07-340125-0
- Various handouts
- Videos (when available)

<b>Class Demeanor</b>
-----------------------

- No one will be allowed to use a cellular telephone or electronic device while class is in session (except the authorized use of a computer in class). Students are to turn off or place their cellular telephones in the vibrate mode. If students have a family emergency in which they need to take a call, they must do so outside of the classroom. **No picture taking or audio recording with any media.**
- **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Plagiarism in class and cheating on exams will result in failing grades for the paper or exam and are subject to the maximum punishment prescribed in your student handbook.
- Students will be expected to have their textbook and any previous handouts with them at the beginning of class.
- The instructor reserves the right to have a student leave the class room because of disruptive behavior and or sleeping in class.
- Students must recognize that they are in a college environment; therefore, participation in class is expected. Students should also expect to have their opinions and theories challenged by the instructor and their peers. The student's demeanor must be such that they will respect those that challenge their thoughts

know as Socratic learning. It is through this 'give and take' that one's individual horizon will grow.

### **Violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Harper College (Student Handbook)**

Whenever a student commits or attempts to commit a violation of the Student Code of Conduct on the College campus, or at an activity, function or event sponsored or supervised by the College, discipline and sanctions may be imposed on the student.

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct include but are not limited to:

1. Possession, use or distribution of an illegal or controlled substance, or look-alike drug.
2. Unauthorized and/or illegal possession, use or distribution of any alcoholic beverage.
3. Theft of property or services.
4. Intentional or willful and wanton destruction of property.
5. Assault and/or battery.
6. Conduct which constitutes harassment or abuse that threatens the physical or mental well-being, health or safety of any individual.
7. Sexual assault or sexual harassment of another person.
8. Possession or use of weapons or explosive devices.
9. Trespassing on College property or other unauthorized use of College property or services including trespassing or unauthorized use of College Computer Network.
10. Academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarizing, or furnishing false information on such forms as transcripts or applications for admission.
11. Disrupting the peace, the education process or related activity.
12. Failure to comply with the direction of an authorized College employee or representative who is performing his/her duties.
13. Any conduct that constitutes a violation of the terms of any discipline imposed in accordance with this procedure.
14. Any conduct that constitutes a violation of a Federal or State law, local ordinance or college rule or regulation.

### **Calendar**

<b># DATE</b>	<b>LECTURE AND READING ASSIGNMENT</b>
1-8/24	Introduction
2	Foundational Requirements of Criminal Law
9/07	<b>Labor Day No Class</b>
3	Read Chapter One (24 pages) Substantive Law/Statutes
4	Read Chapter Two (15 pages) Procedural Law/Constitutional Rights
5	Read Chapter Three (20 pages) Criminal Responsibility
6	Read Chapter Eight (30pages) Homicide
7	Read Chapter Nine (22 pages) Crimes Against Persons

- 8            Read Chapter Ten & Eleven (34 pages) Crimes Against Property
  - Prepare for Midterm
  
- 10/19       MIDTERM EXAMINATION
  
- 9            Read Chapter Four (25 pages) Parties to a Crime
  - Review MIDTERM
  
- 10           Read Chapter Five (26 pages) Inchoate Crimes/Incomplete Crimes
  
- 11           Read Chapter Six (35 pages) Defenses to Crimes
  
- 12           Read Chapter Thirteen (20 pages) Drug/Alcohol/Public Order, Safety and Morality
  
- 13           Receive Writing Assignment  
Life Lessons
  - The Citizen's Guild to Surviving Police Encounters
  - Randy Pausch Last Lecture
  
- 14-11/30   Turn in Writing Assignment  
Prepare for the FINAL EXAMINATION
  
- 15-12/07   FINAL EXAMINATION
  
- 16-12/14   Review Final Examination and Follow-up

<b>Attendance Policy</b>
--------------------------

Attendance will be taken for each class. Students who do not come back to class after breaks will be considered absent for the entire class. There are 11 substantive classes. Students are expected to attend at least 80% of these classes (9 classes). If a student is not in attendance for more than two classes during the semester, five points will be deducted off their cumulative grade point for each additional class missed.

<b>Grading</b>
----------------

Class Participation/ Papers	33%
Exams	67%

(The instructor reserves the right to alter the above weighted percentages.)

I do not offer any formal form of extra credit assignments. Please do not ask for any. Additionally, the final average that you earn at the end of the semester is final and non-negotiable. I do not "round up" course averages or give any extra points to reach the next closest letter grade. For example, if your final average is 79.9 percent, you will receive a C for the course. At the end of each course, each student is assigned a final grade as follows:

Grade	Quality Points	Point Range	Interpretation
A	4.0	90-100	Excellent
B	3.0	80-89	Above Average

C	2.0	79-70	Average
D	1.0	69-60	Below average
F	0.0	59 & below	Failure
I	0.0		Incomplete

#### **Course Completion Requirements**

Students must achieve a passing grade of D or above, by completing all required examinations, submitting the required writing assignment, and meeting the standards of the school attendance policy.

#### **Class Project for the Semester**

TBA

#### **Obligatory Disclaimer**

This syllabus represents a plan for the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, all assignments, dates, and point distributions are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.