

**INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL LAW (CRMJ 2210)**  
**Spring 2017**  
**Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:00-8:50am**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kurt Britzius  
**OFFICE:** Albany County Courthouse  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday 8:50-9:20am  
Wednesday 8:50-9:20pm  
Friday 8:50-9:20pm  
Or by appointment  
**EMAIL:** mkurtz78@uwyo.edu

**Required Text:**

Brody, David C. & Acker, James R. (2015). *Criminal Law*. Jones & Bartlett, LLC an Ascend Learning Company.

**Course Information:**

**Meeting Times:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m.

**Course Description:** This course begins with a general introduction to criminal law and the criminal justice system, including the history and philosophy of modern criminal law, and continues by covering criminal defenses, specific crimes, accomplice liability, and inchoate crimes. The goal of this course is to give the student a grasp of the criminal justice system and the law underlying this system.

**Disability Statement:** It is University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 330 Knight Hall, and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

**Course Objectives:** The objectives of this course are:

1. To understand the sources of American criminal law, including the common law and the Model Penal Code.
2. To appreciate the scope of American criminal law, including the concept of the rule of law and the limitations imposed by the state and federal constitutions.
3. To understand the general principles and characteristics of American criminal law, including the role of punishment, the many ways of classifying crimes, the parties to crimes, the elements of the defenses to crimes, the elements of crimes generally, and the specific elements of major crimes, and be able to recognize and apply them in the context of specific factual situations.

**Course Requirements/Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments are to be completed on or before the date listed in the attached course schedule and as assigned in class. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the cases and subject matter covered in the reading assigned for that day.

**Grading Standards:** Students' final grades will be based upon two (2) in-class exams covering the readings, lectures, and discussion, which will comprise 90% of the students' grades. Each section builds upon concepts established during previous sections, and students should be prepared to see terms and concepts repeated throughout the semester. The remaining 10% of the students' final grades shall be based on class participation.

**Grading:**

Credit will be divided between assignments as follows:

Attendance	10 percent
Test 1	40 percent
Test 2	50 percent

TOTAL: 100 percent

Your grades will be determined by the following scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or less	F

**University Excuse:** In order to be excused from an examination, a valid University excuse or doctor's excuse must be obtained. University excuses can be obtained from the Office of Student Life. The Office of Student Life (OSL) will provide the excuse, provided the students' absence meets the criteria for an authorized absence. For further information on obtaining an excused absence, contact the OSL or visit their website at: <http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/OSL/absences.htm>. Doctor's excuses must be obtained from your attending physician. Be advised that student health does not provide excused absences. These excuses must be for the exam date and must state that you were unable to attend the class period that day. Doctor's appointments do not constitute an excused absence. Excuses need to be presented to the instructor by the class period following the excused absence to be accepted.

**Makeup Policy:** Exams must be made up as soon as possible after the set exam date in cases of anticipated absences and upon the student's return to class in cases of unanticipated absences.

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:** Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be

tolerated. Anyone found to participate in these activities will receive an F for the assignment and quite possibly the course. Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the University guidelines (UniReg 6-802). In addition, grade appeals will be handled according to these same guidelines. These guidelines can be found in the University Regulations.

**Schedule:** The schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change (**and probably will**) at the discretion of the instructor. In order to stay current with announcements regarding the schedule, you will need to attend and be on time for class.

**Tentative Course Outline:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
January 23th	Introduction	
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Criminal Law	Chapter 1
January 27th	Introduction to Criminal Law	Chapter 1
January 30th	Introduction to Criminal Law	Chapter 1
February 1st	Constitutional Limits	Chapter 2
February 3rd	Constitutional Limits	Chapter 2
February 6th	Constitutional Limits	Chapter 2
February 8th	General Elements of Crimes	Chapter 3
February 10th	General Elements of Crimes	Chapter 3
February 13th	General Elements of Crimes	Chapter 3
February 15th	Justification Defenses	Chapter 4
February 17th	Justification Defenses	Chapter 4
February 20th	Excuse Defense	Chapter 5
February 22nd	Excuse Defense	Chapter 5
February 24th	Excuse Defense	Chapter 5

February 27th	<b>Review Class</b>	<b>Chapters 1-5</b>
March 1st	<b>Exam #1</b>	<b>Chapters 1-5</b>
March 3rd	Criminal Homicide	Chapter 6
March 6th	Criminal Homicide	Chapter 6
March 8th	Criminal Homicide	Chapter 6
March 10th	Rape and Sexual Assault	Chapter 7
March 13th-March17th	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
March 20th	Rape and Sexual Assault	Chapter 7
March 22nd	Rape and Sexual Assault	Chapter 7
March 24th	Other Crimes Against Persons	Chapter 8
March 27th	Other Crimes Against Persons	Chapter 8
March 29th	Other Crimes Against Persons	Chapter 8
March 31st	Property Crimes	Chapter 9
April 3rd	Property Crimes	Chapter 9
April 5th	Property Crimes	Chapter 9
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Crimes Against Public Order	Chapter 10
April 10th	Crimes Against Public Order	Chapter 10
April 2th	Crimes Against Public Order	Chapter 10
April 14th	Liability of the Conduct of Another	Chapter 11
April 17th	Liability of the Conduct of Another	Chapter 11
April 19th	Liability of the Conduct of Another	Chapter 11
April 21st	Inchoate Crimes	Chapter 12

April 24th	Inchoate Crimes	Chapter 12
April 26th	Inchoate Crimes	Chapter 12
April 28th	Class Review	
May 1st	Class Review	
May 3rd	Class Review	
May 5th	<b>Conclusion</b>	

## **FINAL EXAM**