**Criminal Law: CRMJ 2210**

**Syllabus, Spring 2020**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Jason Matzen

Email: jmatzen@uwyo.edu

Office: 402 Arts & Sciences

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Day/Time: T/TH – 8:10 – 9:25 am

Room: AG 1032

Credit Hours: 3

**OFFICE HOURS**

In Office: Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

By Email: Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental principles of substantive criminal law; the history and philosophy of modern criminal law, the basic dimensions of criminality, the elements of major crimes, criminal defenses and the nature of criminal sanctions.

**PREREQUISITES**

CRMJ 1001, Introduction to Criminal Justice & POLS 1000, American & Wyo. Govt.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course students should possess the following:

* Recognize the primary sources of criminal law in the United States, including common law and the Model Penal Code.
* Appreciate the doctrinal limitations on criminal law, including the limits imposed by the state and federal constitutions.
* Understand the general principles and characteristics of common law and Model Penal Code criminal law, including the role of punishment, the various ways of classifying crimes, the parties to crime, the elements of defenses to crimes and inchoate crimes, the elements of crimes generally, the elements of specific major crimes.
* Be able to recognize and apply the elements of crimes and defenses in the context of specific factual situations.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

Brody, D. & Acker, J. (2015). *Criminal Law* (3rd Ed). Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

**PARTNERSHIPS/TEAMS**

You will work in teams for most of this course for in-class exercises or presentations; however, each student will receive his or her own participation score (that is 20% of your final grade for the course). Each team will consist of approximately 5 students.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Grades for this course will be comprised in the following way:

1. **Quizzes** – 30%

On select dates throughout the semester, students will take timed quizzes. The quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false, and will cover information from the previous two classes. Quizzes are worth a total of 20 points each (2 points per question), and will comprise thirty percent of your overall grade. Instructor will administer these timed, online quizzes via WyoCourses.

1. **Attendance, Preparedness, Participation, & Collaboration** – 20%

Students will be evaluated based on attendance, preparedness, participation, and collaboration in the course. In order for this course to work well, it is essential that you attend class, come prepared, and participate fully in the course (participation includes, but is not limited to, reading assignments and class discussion) and collaborate with your team for assignments when appropriate.

Throughout the course, I will keep track of participation (both quantity and quality) as well as overall contribution to the course. While it is expected that all students will receive full credit in this area, I will lower a student’s grade up to the full 20% for substantial absences, repeated failure to be fully prepared for the course, and for failure to contribute regularly, meaningfully, and positively in course discussion and in collaboration with your teammate(s).

1. **Final Exam** – 50%

A final, comprehensive examination will be administered in class. It will consist of a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions in addition to issue-spotting essay questions. The final exam will comprise the remaining 60% of your overall grade.

* + 1. ***Note*:** Students who arrive for the final exam more than 15 minutes late will be considered absent and must schedule a make-up exam pursuant to the guidelines outlined in the syllabus.

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| **Grade:**  A  B  C  D  F | **Percentage**:  90-100.00%  87-89.99%  70-79.99%  60-69.99%  less than 60% |

**ATTENDANCE, PREPAREDNESS, PARTICIPATION & COLLABORATION:**

A rubric is applied to your semester-long attendance, preparedness, participation, and collaboration (see above to understand what this category entails).

Students have a total of 3 points to be earned here.

3 = Met 85% or more of expectations

2 = Met 69-84% of expectations

1 = Met less than 69% of expectations

0 = Met none of the expectations

Expectations for this category:

- Attends 75% or more of course meetings/classes

- Is adequately prepared for in-class discussions related to topic at hand, reading assignments, and in-class exercises as demonstrated by performance and participation

- Participates either on own OR when called upon during course

- Collaborates with team member(s) as demonstrated by class discussions and presentations

Remember that this category is weighted at 20% of your final grade.

(E.g.) If a student’s points totaled 2 out of 3 here, then she got a 67% (66 rounded up to 67—professor will round up to student’s favor) in this grading category that will contribute to or be weighted at 20% to the student’s final grade (i.e., .67 x .20 = .134), and then added to the other weighted result (i.e., final exam).

**MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work/test opportunities will only be granted for excused absences. Excused absences include:

1. Participation in an organized school activity

2. Death in the immediate family

3. Illness (with doctor’s written excuse)

4. Special circumstances that have been approved **in advance** by the instructor

The instructor is the sole arbiter of what (if any) absences are excused. Documentation will be required. All make-up work must be completed during office hours within **ONE WEEK** of the original due date, with the exception of panel discussion, which must be completed in the class immediately following the date of absence. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule and complete the make-up work. The instructor reserves the right to change the format of all make-up exams, quizzes, and other assignments.

**University and Doctor’s Excuses:**

In order to be considered for an excused absence 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 (Room 128 Knight Hall, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82070 - telephone: 307-766-3296) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office of Student Life (OSL) will provide the excuse, provided the student’s 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 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.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Academic dishonesty in all its forms will not be tolerated in this class. This includes cheating on tests, turning in someone else’s work as your own, **plagiarism**, or assisting other students in these activities. Students are expected to do their own work and anyone caught cheating will automatically receive a failing grade on the assignment and may receive a failing grade in the class depending on the severity of the transgression. Each student is encouraged to read University Regulation 802 for further information concerning academic dishonesty and the potential consequences. <http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/UW-Reg-6-802.pdf>

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance is important to the successful completion of this course. Students are expected to have read assigned readings prior to class and be prepared to participate in class discussions. As noted above, failure to attend classes may have a substantial negative effect on student grades. Students are expected to check WyoCourses on a regular basis for information pertaining to this course.

In this course, there’s really no time to catch you up if you miss too many classes; you will surely be left behind. In some classes, I may provide supplemental material and cases through lecture and discussion; thus, merely doing the reading will not give you everything you need to do well on the final examination. If you miss a class, please communicate with your team to help get caught up to speed. If you still have questions or need further assistance, contact me during office hours.

Please do not email me why you either need to miss a class or why you missed a previous class. I want to know that you are doing well, but it is not necessary for you to give me this kind of information. What is important is that you take care of yourself and then jump back into the class and get caught up immediately.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

Students are expected to abide by the following rules of conduct:

* + - 1. No texting or other use of the cell phone in class without prior notification and permission from the instructor.
      2. No surfing the internet
      3. No sleeping or giving the appearance of sleeping
      4. Be respectful to the instructor and fellow classmates

Failure to abide by these rules may result in the student being dismissed from the class.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

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 128 Knight Hall, 766-3656, <http://www.uwyo.edu/udss/> and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS:**

The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to class, including age, country of origin, culture, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE:**

The faculty and staff of the University of Wyoming actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination. Under Title IX, the University has a responsibility to take immediate and effective steps to respond to sexual violence and/or sexual harassment. Title IX mandatory reporters are required to notify Equal Opportunity Report and Response of any allegation of sexual misconduct. Mandatory reporters at the University include every administrative officer, dean, director, department head, supervisor, and all instructional personnel including your instructor.  More information, including access to confidential resources, can be found at:

<http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit/policies/index.html>

**LEGAL INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER:**

Any information provided to students in connection with this course is for educational purposes only, and should in no way be construed as legal advice by the instructor. This course is only a primer on criminal law, and you are not justified in relying on information learned in the course in connection with any criminal charge or prosecution.

**SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE:**

The information and schedule contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advanced notice, as deemed appropriate by the professor. Substantive changes made to the syllabus by the professor during the semester shall be communicated in the learning management system, other electronic means, or in class to students with reasonable notice.

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS\***

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| **Week #1:**  1/28 – 1/30 | **Course Introduction & Syllabus Review**   * Read: Syllabus   Introductions & Team Assignments |
| **Week #2:**  2/4 – 2/6 | **Introduction to Criminal Law**   * Read: Text, Chapter 1, pp. 1-23   Discussion Leaders: Team 1 & Team 2 |
| **Week #3:**  2/11 – 2/13 | **Constitutional Limits on Definition and Punishment of Crimes**   * Read: Text, Chapter 2, pp. 24 - 68   Discussion Leaders: Team 3 & 4  **Quiz:** Via WyoCourses. **Due: 11:59p.m. February 13, 2020** |
| **Week #4:**  2/18 – 2/20 | **General Elements of Crimes**   * Read: Text, Chapter 3, pp. 69 - 128   Discussion Leaders: Team 4 & 5 |
| **Week #5:**  2/25 – 2/27 | **Justification Defenses to Crimes**   * Read: Text, Chapter 4, pp. 129 – 163   Discussion Leaders: Team 6 & 7  **Quiz:** Via WyoCourses. **Due: 11:59 p.m., February 27, 2020** |
| **Week #6:**  3/3 – 3/5 | **Excuse Defenses to Crimes**   * Read: Text, Chapter 5, pp. 164 - 203   Discussion Leaders: Team 8 & 9 |
| **Week #7:**  3/10 – 3/12 | **Criminal Homicide**   * Read: Text, Chapter 6, pp. 204 - 264   Discussion Leaders: Team 10 & 11  **Quiz:** Via WyoCourses. **Due: 11:59 p.m., March 12, 2020** |
| **Week #8:**  3/17 – 3/19 | **SPRING BREAK**  No Assignments |
| **Week #9:**  3/24 – 3/26 | **Rape and Sexual Assault**   * Read: Text, Chapter 7, pp. 265 – 294   Discussion Leaders: Team 1 & 2 |
| **Week #10:**  3/31 – 4/2 | **Other Crimes against Persons**   * Read: Text, Chapter 8, pp. 296 – 316   Discussion Leaders: Team 3 & 4  **Quiz:** Via WyoCourses. **Due: 11:59 p.m., April 2, 2020** |
| **Week #11:**  4/7 – 4/9 | **Property Crimes and Crimes Against Habitation**   * Read: Text, Chapter 9, pp. 317 - 351   Discussion Leaders: Team 5 & 6 |
| **Week #12:**  4/14 – 4/16 | **Crimes Against Public Order and Security**   * Read: Text, Chapter 10, pp. 352 - 379   Discussion Leaders: Team 7 & 8  **Quiz:** Via WyoCourses. **Due: 11:59 p.m., April 16, 2020** |
| **Week #13:**  4/21 – 4/23 | **Liability for the Conduct of Another**   * Read: Text, Chapter 11, pp. 380 - 397   Discussion Leaders: Team 9 & 10 |
| **Week #14:**  4/28 – 4/30 | **Inchoate Crimes**   * Read: Text, Chapter 12, pp. 398 - 434   Discussion Leaders: Team 11  **Quiz:** Via WyoCourses. **Due: 11:59 p.m., February 27, 2020** |
| **Week #15:**  5/5 – 5/7 | **Final Examination Review & Question Session**  Read: Practice Essay Problems (posted to WyoCourses) |
| **Week #16:** | **FINAL EXAMINATION** |

**\*Note: This is a tentative class schedule, which may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances. The instructor will notify students at least one week in advance of any changes to the test schedule.**