

COURSE OUTLINE

CRIM-201 Criminal Law 3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

The study of substantive criminal law as applied to the local, state and federal systems. Crimes as prosecuted in a court of law are examined. Court decisions are used to address various sources and types of criminal laws. Prerequisite CRIM-101. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Courses Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Define crime and understand the origins of criminal law.
2. Distinguish the difference between a crime and a tort.
3. Identify and understand the various stages in the criminal process.
4. Identify the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th and 14th amendments.
5. Compare and contrast procedural due process versus substantive due process.
6. Distinguish between specific intent and general crimes.
7. Identify and analyze the various inchoate criminal offenses.
8. Identify and define common law crimes and their elements.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of Maryland Criminal law and contemporary applications.
10. Explain the burden of proof in criminal cases.
11. Describe the defenses to criminal conduct.
12. Understand and describe the stages of the administration of justice from arrest, booking, lineup, preliminary hearing, grand jury, indictment, arraignment, and trial to sentencing.
13. Examine the development of common law offenses of perjury, embezzlement, compounding, escape and contempt.
14. Describe and recognize defenses related to criminal responsibility.
15. Identify and analyze constitutional limitations on "search and seizure" and related 4th, 5th, and 14th amendment considerations.
16. Identify the exceptions to the warrant requirement.
17. Define probable cause, arrest and reasonable force.
18. Understand and describe the pretrial process, motions, discovery and plea bargaining.
19. Recognize the right to trial, stages of trial and rules of evidence.
20. Examine the roles of the police, prosecution, and defense attorneys.
21. Identify the unique functions of juvenile courts and detention facilities.
22. Compare and contrast the various forms of punishment available at sentencing.
23. Discuss the differing views related to the death penalty.
24. Understand the practical application of criminal law in everyday activities.

Major Topics

- I. Basic Concepts of Criminal Law
 - A. Purposes, Scope and Sources of Criminal Law
 - B. Types of Crimes
 - C. Criminal Liability and Responsibility
 - D. Criminal Defenses
 - E. Criminal Punishment
 - F. Criminal Jurisdiction

- II. Procedural Criminal Law
 - A. 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th and 14 amendments
 - B. Search and Seizure, Warrantless searches, Exclusionary Rule
 - C. Administration of Criminal Justice
 - D. Fine, probation, parole, incarceration
 - E. Sentencing
 - F. Appellate process

- III. The Police Function
 - A. History
 - B. Trends in Enforcement
 - C. Community Involvement

Course Requirements

Grading/exams:

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following: a minimum of two exams, assigned formal writing assignments and class participation.

Other course information

Fulfills college requirements for Social Sciences elective and Arts and Science elective.