

Criminal Law

CJ - 1330 002

Course Description

Students will learn the sources of law, historical origins of law, functions of law in society, elements of a crime, interpretation of laws by the judicial system, classifications of crime, terms of imprisonment, and criminal defenses. Students will analyze mock scenarios to determine if a crime has occurred. This course will provide students with an introduction to the history, function, administration, and concerns of the penal and correctional system. It is recommended students complete CJ 1010 prior to taking this course.

Semester(s): All

Additional Information

Semester: Fall 2025

This is a three-credit course.

First Day of Class: Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Last Day of Class: Monday, December 15, 2025

Class Location: SLCC Miller Campus - Sandy - Room 219 PSET

Administrative Drop: Students that do not complete any assignment by Sunday, September 14th, 2025 may be administratively dropped from this course.

Dispute Resolution: I ask that you try to resolve any disputes that may arise (such as disputing a grade) with me before filing a complaint with the Associate Dean (Katerina Salina). Usually, an informal conversation can resolve any misunderstanding

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Describe the sources of law.
- Describe historical origins of law.
- Describe functions of law in society.
- Identify elements of a crime.
- Identify how laws have been applied by the judicial system.
- Describe criminal defenses.
- Analyze mock scenarios to determine if a crime has occurred, including the classification of the crime and terms of imprisonment.

College Wide Student Learning Outcomes

- Acquire substantive knowledge
- Communicate effectively
- Think critically & creatively

Required Text or Materials

Title: Title: This course uses a free textbook and other free supplementary learning material (vidoes, documents, etc). Links to the learning material is provided to you throughout the course as you work through each course module.

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at ads@slcc.edu.

Brief Description of Assignments/Exams

All assignments have been published and are accessible in the Assignments section of Canvas. All assignments have point values assigned to them, which are accessible to

you. However, the weight of an assignment is relative to the category in which the assignment resides.

Overview

Visit to a Court: 10%

- You must attend one "live" in-person, criminal court trial or hearing

Chapter Quizzes: 15%

- You will take a quiz related to each Chapter in this course.

Discussions: 15%

- You will complete a discussion for each Chapter in this Course.

Applying Code: 15%

- You will complete these "practice" assignments (unlimited attempts) to prepare for the Putting it All Together Assignments. The Applying Code assignments often contain scenario-based questions and require you to analyze real-world criminal statutes.

Progress Checks: 10%

- These will be "refresher" quizzes that cover all the material learned throughout the semester. They are designed to help refresh on content that may not have been covered in a while. For example, in the middle of the semester, you may have a few questions from Chapter 2 or 3.

Putting it All Together: 15%

- These are similar to the Applying Code assignments. The biggest difference is they are not practice assignments. You only have one attempt. Use the Applying Cod assignments to practice for these assignments.
- Links are provided to many of the statutory references in the beginning of this course, but as this course progresses, you will be expected to navigate the Utah Criminal Code (Title 76) on your own to find criminal statutes.

Essays: 20%

- There are three essays in this course.

Grading Notes:

- I drop one grade (the lowest score) within each of the categories shown above (except for the visit to a Court section).
- More details related to each assignment can be found by clicking on the assignment and reviewing the assignment instructions. You can review the instructions to any assignment by clicking on the Assignments tab and then clicking on a specific assignment.

Late Work Policy

Each assignment has a due date. That date is designed to keep you on an appropriate pace. However, if you get behind, I will still accept work without the loss of points, until Monday, December 15, 2025 (11:59 pm local time).

Grading Scale

*As per SLCC's Criminal Justice Department Policy, 94% is required to earn an A. This grading scale may differ from other courses at SLCC.

A 94-100

A- 90-93

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 63-66

D- 60-62

E Less than 60 *Grade of E is a failing grade.

Engagement Plan

Example language:

- I will log into the course every business day.
- Please email me your questions through Canvas Inbox.
- I will respond to emails within one business day.
- I typically do not respond to emails or grade work on weekends and holidays.
- If you would like to set up a Zoom meeting, let me know. I am available every business day.
- I will grade your work within three business days.
- I will always leave a comment to your discussion board post in the Assignment Comments section.
- I will engage with you through weekly Canvas announcements.
- I will post comments in the Assignment Comments section of your essays.
- You should log into this course at least twice per week to ensure that you are staying up to date with the learning material and assignments.
- There will be a required discussion board for each Chapter that you read.
- When you upload a file as your assignment submission, Canvas allows me to post comments directly onto the file (electronically). If I leave a comment for you in the Assignment Comments section to view my feedback on your document, you can click on "View Feedback" and review specific comments that I have left directly on your submitted document.

Additional Policies

It is imperative for everyone to feel a sense of belonging in this class. SLCC is unique in its student body. In any given class, you may find a mix of recent high school graduates, current high school students (concurrent enrollment), parents, military veterans, returning professionals, recently incarcerated, students with enormous out-of-school responsibilities, disabled students, and more. The student body in this class will likely contain a broad mix of different ages, race/ethnicities, marital statuses, economic statuses, etc. Everyone brings a unique perspective to class. Use this diversity to your advantage to help understand how others may have a different perspective than you.

Class discussions can fuel incredible cognitive growth, particularly when you challenge and defend each others' viewpoints based on their merits. I encourage class debate. It is imperative that we treat each other with empathy and respect. I expect you debate each other in a respectful manner, void of personal attacks or overly emotional responses to sensitive issues. This will maximize the value of our discussions of course content and help ensure that everyone feels a sense of belonging in this class.

Growth Mindset

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Course Content Advisory

You will learn about violent crimes in this course, including rape and sexual assault.

You will analyze facts of scenarios to determine what crime, if any, has occurred based on the facts in the scenario.

How to Navigate to Canvas

Online Tutorial

Students at SLCC have access to online tutoring through Canvas. From your Canvas course click Online Tutoring in the course navigation and follow the steps to set up an appointment. If this is your first time using the Online Tutoring we recommend you click "Take a Tour" to familiarize yourself with the service.

Note that students only receive 480 minutes of tutoring time each semester. After that we encourage you to use the resources found through this link:

<https://www.slcc.edu/tutoring/index.aspx>

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

[Advising and Counseling Support Services](#)

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

[Student Academic Calendar](#)

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)

[Keys for Success \(how to succeed in the course\)](#)

Here are some tips from former students:

"Stay on top of things. If you are having issues getting started on the essays just start typing and things will start to come together."

"I really like the self-pace this course allows but be sure to stay on top of the assignments and if you decide to let yourself fall behind that will be on you not the professor or the class design."

"Don't procrastinate just because there are no hard deadlines."

Don't abuse the flexible deadlines, I think sometimes there's a level of disrespect associated with doing that. Also, try your best, and the textbook is not boring, it's actually pretty interesting to read!"

"Just stay on task and do your assignments and everything else will come in line."

"I think it is really important to go over the lecture contents for multiple times since there are so many details, and it is always good to work ahead."

"My advice to future student is, as long as you put in the work and turn in the assignments in time and not procrastinate, this course will help you gain knowledge about the origins of law, its historical development, its social purposes, the components of a crime, how the legal system interprets the law, crime classifications, jail sentences, and criminal defenses. To ascertain if a crime has been committed, students will examine fictitious scenarios.

Even though there are no harsh deadlines it is good to stay on track with what is due that week, so you don't fall too far behind."

"Only advice I have is to stay on top of the assignments. I kept getting behind and once I got caught up, I'd be trying to cram a lot of assignments in the next week and got behind on more each time."

"DO NOT ABUSE THE LACK OF DEADLINES! This course was incredibly accommodating. As a student who has children and works a full-time job, I feel like my time is incredibly respected by the professor and he sees us as adults that will get all of our work done in a timely manner. Thank you."

"My advice is to take advantage of the flexibility and get ahead."

"Do not get behind! I would say to actually stay ahead! Staying ahead saved me and it gave me more time to work on my essays since I would work on it a week earlier than it was due."

"Take more time on the readings and print the textbook! I also was able to download and convert it to a PDF and upload it to natural reader to help me study during my busy times

(However I should have done this sooner) I did not know that I was able to do that until chapter 9."

"Don't do what I did. Turn in the assignments when they are "suggested" to be turned in. Maybe even get ahead of your work. Life got the best of me, and I turned in a lot of assignments "late". So, I had to play catch up and spend more time per week working on the assignments than I wanted."

"Stay organized with a schedule."

"Engage in discussions for better understanding."

"Start assignments early for better results. Don't hesitate to ask questions. Manage your time effectively. Use feedback to improve. Apply theory to real-world scenarios."

"Stay updated with course material. Balance coursework with self-care for wellbeing."

"Get ahead while you can. It will make coursework for other classes easier to focus on."

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The work that you submit must be created by you. You cannot use AI to autogenerate your assignments for you.

However, you can use AI to help plan and organize your work. You should always evaluate the accuracy of the AI-generated products that you use. AI can produce misleading and incorrect information at times.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Apply New York's Code: Elements of a Crime (Assault in the Third Degree)	Quiz	3

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Apply New York's Code: Entrapment	Quiz	2
	Apply Utah and New York's Code: Perjury	Quiz	2
	Apply Utah and New York's Code: Theft-Related Crimes	Quiz	2
	Apply Utah, New York, and California's Code: Murder	Quiz	1
	Apply Utah's Code: Accomplice Scenario	Quiz	1
	Apply Utah's Code: Attempt Scenario (Attempted Mayhem)	Quiz	4
	Apply Utah's Code: Attempted Kidnapping	Quiz	2
	Apply Utah's Code: Classifications of Crimes (Grading)	Quiz	2
	Apply Utah's Code: Disorderly Conduct	Quiz	1
	Apply Utah's Code: Elements of a Crime	Quiz	2
	Apply Utah's Code: Entrapment Scenario	Quiz	2
	Apply Utah's Code: Harassment	Quiz	2

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Apply Utah's Code: Inference and Presumption	Quiz	3
	Apply Utah's Code: Kidnapping	Quiz	2
	Apply Utah's Code: Murder	Quiz	3
	Apply Utah's Code: Self-Defense (Habitation Scenario)	Quiz	3
	Apply Utah's Code: Self-Defense (Parking Lot Shooting Scenario)	Quiz	1
	Ch 1 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 1 Quiz	Quiz	19
	Chapter 10 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 10 Quiz	Quiz	26
	Chapter 11 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 11 Quiz	Quiz	19
	Chapter 12 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 12 Quiz	Quiz	19
	Chapter 13 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 13 Quiz	Quiz	13
	Chapter 2 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 2 Quiz	Quiz	22

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Chapter 3 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 3 Quiz	Quiz	31
	Chapter 4 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 4 Quiz	Quiz	20
	Chapter 5 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 5 Quiz	Quiz	26
	Chapter 6 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 6 Quiz	Quiz	23
	Chapter 7 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 7 Quiz	Quiz	13
	Chapter 8 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 8 Quiz	Quiz	27
	Chapter 9 Discussion	Discussion	15
	Chapter 9 Quiz	Quiz	33
	Constitutional Law (Landmark Cases)	Quiz	20
	Course Evaluation	Quiz	5
	Elements of a Crime (Practice)	Quiz	10
	End of Course Survey	Quiz	4
	Exploring the Utah Courts Website	Quiz	5
	Final Essay	Assignment	20

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Final Progress Check: Chapters 1-12	Quiz	120
	Firearm Theft: Utah v. Federal Law	Quiz	3
	Interactive Learning: Classifications of Crimes (in Utah)	Assignment	10
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	5
	Midterm #1 Essay	Assignment	25
	Midterm #2 Essay	Assignment	25
	Progress Check: Chapters 1-10	Quiz	100
	Progress Check: Chapters 1-4	Quiz	40
	Progress Check: Chapters 1-6	Quiz	60
	Progress Check: Chapters 1-8	Quiz	80
	Putting It All Together: Quiz 1 (Chapters 1-6)	Quiz	30
	Putting It All Together: Quiz 2 (Chapters 1-9)	Quiz	50

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Putting It All Together: Quiz 3 (Chapters 1-13).	Quiz	80
	What Questions Do You Have? (optional).	Discussion	0

Course Prerequisites

CJ

Additional Materials

None

Academic Integrity

If you are caught using AI for any assignments, you will fail that assignment and receive a ZERO score.