

LEG 320 – Criminal Law

Course Description

This course familiarizes the student with the origins of criminal law and explores its historical development into modern American crimes codes. Each lesson introduces the student to substantive criminal law and associated legal principles and terminology. This course contrasts elements of crimes against persons, crimes against property, cyber-crime, white collar crime, and other types of crime. Early and modern approaches to identifying, deterring, preventing, detecting, prosecuting, and punishing criminal behavior are also examined.

Instructional Materials

Gardner, T. & Anderson, T. (2012). *Criminal law* (11th ed.). (Custom). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth / Cengage.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the nature and history of American criminal law.
2. Explain the role of individuals and federal, state, and local government agencies in crime fighting and prosecution of criminal offenses.
3. Analyze the essential legal elements of criminal conduct.
4. Explain the concept of criminal liability.
5. Apply the concept of criminal responsibility and give examples of justifications, excuses, and incapacity for criminal acts.
6. Contrast crimes against persons, crimes against property, and other types of criminal conduct.
7. Contrast white-collar crime, commercial crime, and cybercrime from conventional criminal conduct.
8. Use technology and information resources to research issues in criminal law.
9. Write clearly and concisely about criminal law using proper writing mechanics.