I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course features an overview of the principles and philosophy of criminal law, focusing primarily on court rules and case precedents. Specific topics include: administration of criminal justice, components of a crime, search and seizure, confessions and Miranda, pretrial through sentencing and punishment.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

**GOAL A:** Develop an understanding of the sources of criminal law and society’s response to crime.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:
A-1 Diagram the federal criminal court system.
A-2 Identify and explain the roles of those involved in the criminal justice system.
A-3 Discuss the causes of crime and the objectives of the criminal justice system.

**GOAL B:** Develop an understanding of the basic components of any crime.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:
B-1 Explain the act requirement to a crime (Actus Reus).
B-2 Explain the criminal intent requirement to a crime (Mens Rea).
B-3 Explain the causation and harm requirements.
B-4 Explain the doctrine of strict liability.

**GOAL C:** Develop an understanding of crimes against persons and against habitation.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:
C-1 Identify the elements of homicide and its subcategories.
C-2 Identify the elements of Assault and Battery.
C-3 Identify the elements of Sexual Battery.
C-4 Identify the elements of kidnapping, false imprisonment, and custodial interference.
C-5 Identify the elements of arson, burglary, and vandalism.

GOAL D: Develop an understanding of crimes against property and against public morals.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
D-1 Identify the elements of larceny, embezzlement, fraud, and robbery.
D-2 Identify the elements of obscenity and profanity.
D-3 Identify the common charges associated with drug offenses.

GOAL E: Develop an understanding of inchoate and organized crimes.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
E-1 Define and apply the inchoate crimes of attempt, conspiracy, and solicitation.
E-2 Identify the types of organizations targeted by RICO, CCE, and criminal gang laws.

GOAL F: Develop an understanding of the various kinds of defenses and understand the rationale behind each defense.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
F-1 Identify the most common constitutional and statutory defenses.
F-2 Discuss the difference between the defenses of justification and excuse.
F-3 Identify what defense is applicable to a particular set of facts.

GOAL G: Develop an understanding of and appreciation for our constitutional protections within the realm of criminal law.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
G-1 Explain the scope of the Fourth Amendment.
G-2 Discuss the warrant requirement and identify the exceptions thereto.
G-3 Explain the protections and limitations of the Fifth Amendment.