

Piedmont Technical College Course Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Prefix/Number: CRJ 115

Title: Criminal Law I

Responsible Division: Criminal Justice

Last Day to Withdraw from this Course: For the last date to withdraw from this course, consult the current *Student Calendar*.

Course Description:

For course, credit hour, pre-requisite(s) and co-requisite(s) information, visit the Detailed Course Information page: www.ptc.edu/courses/CRJ115.

Textbook and Other Materials:

For textbook information and additional required and/or supplemental materials, visit the [college bookstore](http://www.ptc.edu/bookstore) (www.ptc.edu/bookstore).

Proctored Examinations:

Proctored examinations for distance learning courses taken at non-PTC campuses may require a proctoring fee for each exam taken.

COURSE POLICIES

Course policies are available online through the *Academic Catalog* and *Student Handbook*. Visit the [Course Policies page](http://www.ptc.edu/syllabus/policies) (www.ptc.edu/syllabus/policies) for a detailed list of important policies and more information.

GRADE POLICY

Detailed grading policy information can be found on the [Grading Policy webpage](http://www.ptc.edu/grading-policy) (http://www.ptc.edu/grading-policy). Final grade appeal information is available in the [Academic Catalog](http://www.ptc.edu/catalog/) (http://www.ptc.edu/catalog/).

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations for ADA:

Information is available on the [Student Disability Services webpage](http://www.ptc.edu/ada) (<http://www.ptc.edu/ada>).

TITLE IX HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT INFORMATION

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Piedmont Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities. Title IX protects students, employees, and applicants from sex discrimination in admissions and employment to include discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. More information regarding Title IX, including contact information for the Title IX coordinators, is available at [Title IX Harassment and Sexual Assault Information](https://www.ptc.edu/about/legal-disclosures/title-ix-harassment-and-sexual-assault-information) (<https://www.ptc.edu/about/legal-disclosures/title-ix-harassment-and-sexual-assault-information>).

RATIONALE

Why do I need this course?

Welcome to the course: Criminal Law 1 CRJ-115

This course covers the fundamental principles of substantive criminal law. It will examine the basic elements of crimes, including actus reus and mens rea; some general doctrines of criminal liability, such as complicity, causation, attempt, and conspiracy; an example of substantive crime grading (homicide); and defenses to crime. We will study the reasons for punishing convicted criminals, as well as the elements of crimes and the defenses that the accused might raise. We will examine tensions between various state statutes, the common law, and the Model Penal Code. Although you will be responsible for learning criminal law doctrine, it is equally important for you to learn to make the best legal argument on each side of a case and to analyze the policy reasons for embracing or criticizing current laws. The course will cover common law formulations, a variety of state and federal statutory codifications (with particular attention to SC law), and the Model Penal Code.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

For program information including required courses, program learning outcomes, gainful employment information and advisement information, refer to the Academic Program webpage. Go to [Academics](http://www.ptc.edu/academics) (<http://www.ptc.edu/academics>), select your program, and then select Credentials Offered.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course and/or clinical, each student will be able to:

By the end of this course, students should:

- Acquire a knowledge of the basic rules of criminal, tort, and administrative law
- Recognize the roles that judicial common law, legislatively-enacted statutes, and the Model Penal Code have played in the development of the criminal law, and appreciate how and why criminal laws may be changed
- Understand how state and federal law interact with regard to crimes
- Understand and articulate the significance of the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, and 14th Amendments as they pertain to criminal laws
- Demonstrate an understanding of case analysis and statutory construction.
- Explain the concept of punishment, *mens rea* and *actus rea*
- Explain what is meant by “reasonable doubt”.
- Explain the elements of the insanity defense, self-defense and related defenses.
- Discuss the defenses of infancy, intoxication, duress, necessity, entrapment, and excessive government involvement.
- Examine the scope of one’s accountability for the criminal acts of others.
- Discuss the crime of conspiracy.
- Explain know the elements of the crime of homicide.
- Discuss the elements of SC crimes of sexual assault, battery, assault, aggravated assault and battery, mayhem, kidnapping, and larceny, obtaining property by false pretenses, forgery, receiving stolen goods, robbery, extortion, burglary, arson, property destruction

offenses, fraud, and related offenses, robbery, burglary, and criminal trespass, public order, and indecency

GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES

Piedmont Technical College General Education Competencies for All Graduates:

This course may address one or more of the following General Education Competencies (assessment will be stated when applicable):

Communicate effectively.

Assessment:

Writing assignments and critical thinking exercises.

Apply mathematical skills appropriate to an occupation.

Assessment:

N/A

Employ effective processes for resolving problems and making decisions.

Assessment:

Writing assignments and critical thinking exercises.

Demonstrate the basic computer skills necessary to function in a technological world.

Assessment:

Writing assignments and critical thinking exercises.

To validate proficiency in the general education competencies, students in some programs will be tested using Work Keys.