

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** ADMJ 104    **TITLE:** Concepts of Criminal Law    **C-ID:** AJ 120  
**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours  
**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only  
**Recommended Preparation:**  
    Completion of or concurrent enrollment in ADMJ 100 and eligibility for ENGL 100 or 105

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**  
**Degree Credit**  
**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**  
**Catalog Description:**

This course introduces students to the general elements and classifications of crimes against persons, property, morals and public welfare using case law and case studies. Discussion points will also include common and statutory law, the nature of acceptable evidence, prosecution and defense decision making, criminal culpability and defenses to crimes.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Discuss the history of Criminal Law and the fundamentals of the adversarial system.
2. Describe elements of crimes and their criminal law classifications.
3. Identify and discuss criminal defenses and justifications.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Discuss the history of Criminal Law and the fundamentals of the adversarial system.
2. Describe elements of crimes and their criminal law classifications.
3. Identify and discuss criminal defenses and justifications.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

1. Historical Background of Criminal Law
  - A. Relationship between the U.S. and California Constitutions
  - B. Sources of the law
    - a. Constitutional law
    - b. Statutory law
    - c. Case law
2. Crime Elements and Intent
  - A. Crimes against Persons
  - B. Crimes against Property
  - C. General Crime Statutes
  - D. Crimes against the Justice System
  - E. Criminal Intent
    - a. General intent
    - b. Specific intent
    - c. Transferred intent
  - F. Criminal intent vs. criminal negligence
3. Criminal Law Classifications
  - A. Three classes of crime
    - a. Felony
    - b. Misdemeanor
    - c. Infraction
  - B. Parties to a crime
    - a. Principals
    - b. Accessories
    - c. Accomplices

4. Fundamentals of the Adversarial System
  - A. Representation
  - B. Presentation
  - C. Deliberation
  - D. Outcomes
5. Criminal Defenses and Justifications
  - A. Persons considered legally incapable of committing crime
  - B. Defenses against criminal liability
    - a. Exemptions
    - b. Diminished capacity
    - c. Other defenses
  - C. Entrapment

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion

**8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

Homework assignments from text.

**Reading Assignments:**

Required text readings on course material being covered in lecture.

**Other Outside Assignments:**

Identify current events relevant to the course for presentation in the class.

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Quizzes
- C. Written examination

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Hunt, D.; Rutledge, D.. *California Criminal Law Concepts*, ed. Pearson Learning Solutions, 2019

**Origination Date:** August 2020

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** October 2020

**Effective Term:** Fall 2021

**Course Originator:** Michelle Schneider