COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Elements of Criminal Offenses examines the foundation of American jurisprudence and the enactments of criminal offense statutes. The elements of and defenses to inchoate offenses, offenses against persons, crimes against persons, crimes against morality, alcohol/drug offenses, white-collar/organized crime, offenses against public health, offense against public order and offenses against justice and public order will be reviewed in detail as well as other miscellaneous crimes, statutes and important appellate court cases.

PREREQUISITE(s)

POL 3613

REQUIRED TEXT

Klotter, John C.  
*Criminal Law*, Anderson Publishing Company

OTHER SUPPLIES

Paper and writing utensil for notes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, the graduate student will:

Explain briefly the development of courts and legislative enactments from the perspective of state authorized power before intervention in the life of an individual, corporation, etc., in Oklahoma and the United States;

Explain the terminology of criminal offenses;

Develop a framework of how various society, political and other sources have
influenced the development of various statutes relating to criminal offenses;

Describe the concept of criminal intent as a foundation in most criminal offenses;

Describe most of the elements of major criminal offenses against persons and property as well as other crimes and the defenses to those criminal elements constituting a particular criminal offense;

Write a scholarly paper/assignment; participate in class discussions; take the lead in class discussions; and attain higher test scores that are graded on a higher scale.

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The University of Central Oklahoma is a learning-centered organization committed to transformative education through the “Central Six,” which include Discipline Knowledge; Leadership; Problem Solving (Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities); Service Learning and Civic Engagement; Global and Cultural Competencies; and Health and Wellness.

This course addresses two of the university’s transformative learning goals: discipline knowledge, and leadership. This course addresses discipline knowledge through information about criminal law and the elements of crimes. This course addresses leadership through public speaking opportunities, as well as gaining confidence to discuss difficult issues and contemplate many different solutions. The ability to speak effectively to a group is an important feature of leadership. Additionally being willing to listen and be open to all points of view of critical issues are key qualities of a good leader.

COURSE OUTLINE*

* - This schedule is tentative and is subject to change as the need arises. Students will be notified in advance of changes to allow enough time for proper preparation.

Week 1 - Sources, Distinctions and Limitations

Week 2 – *MLK Day, No Class*

Week 3 - Principles of Criminal Liability

Week 4- Offenses Against Persons - Excluding Sex Offenses

Week 5 - Offenses Against Property

Week 6 - Offenses Involving Theft

Week 7 - Forgery and Other Fraud Crimes

Week 8 - White-collar and Corporate Crimes
Week 9 - Offenses Against Morality and Decency

Week 10 – Spring Break, No Class

Week 11 - Offenses Against the Public Peace

Week 12 - Offenses Against Public Justice and Administration

Week 13 - Drug-related Offenses

Week 14 - Capacity and Defenses

Final Exam: April 29th at 7:30pm

ADAPTIVE NEEDS STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who believe that they need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services, Ext. 2516, or see me after class as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Other important information is located on the Student Information Sheet. http://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/faculty/StudentInfoSheet.pdf

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

The primary instructional strategy which will be utilized by the instructor in classroom is lecture and the Socratic method on cases. Students are encouraged to take notes on the lectures as the majority of examination questions will come from the lectures, text materials and class discussions. Guest speakers and other instructional materials will be used as are appropriate.

EXAMINATIONS

There will be two examinations during the semester, including the final examination. The final semester examination will be comprehensive. The exams, and the grading system which will be utilized, are explained in the paragraphs which follow. Each exam is worth 100 points.

All examinations will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and/or essay questions. The student should answer the questions in such a manner to address the most salient points which were addressed in the text and/or in class lectures. If a written answer is not legible, an answer will be counted incorrect. Examination dates will be announced in class. Examinations not taken will be assigned a grade of zero and will be averaged in with other examination scores unless permission is granted to take a make-up examination.

Make-up examinations are at the discretion of the professor and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Those exams will be scheduled at the discretion of the professor.

In addition to the two exams, students will be required to complete two case assignments (term paper) and an oral presentation of that case assignment. Each case assignment (term paper) and oral presentation are each worth 50 points (200 points total).
TERM PAPER

All graduate students will be expected to complete two case assignments. These will be
assigned to you in class. You must give an oral presentation of the case in class. A more detailed
discussion of the assignment and its requirements will be discussed in class. The case assignments
will count for one-third of your grade.

GRADING

The following policies will determine the guidelines for grading tests and other work for the
course. An I will be given only when a minor amount of work (one test or one term paper) is late
due to serious illness, death in the family, administrative job duties or other legitimate excuses (as
determined by the professor) that compel the student to be absent.

A grade reflects superior work
B grade reflects above average work
C grade reflects average work
D grade reflects below average work
F grade is a failing grade

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 - 91</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>77 - 84</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 76</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69 - Below</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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ATTENDANCE POLICY

As this is a graduate course it is assumed that students will attend class regularly. Any
student who misses more than 30% of the legal class periods is subject to the grade of “F”
regardless of assignment and test scores.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

Exams will be taken at scheduled times unless arrangements are made with the
professor. Students who miss exams due to an excused absence (e.g. death in the
family or documented illnesses) will be allowed to take a make-up exam. If at all
possible the student should contact the professor within 24 hours of the original exam
date. If possible, please notify the professor before the scheduled exam. The professor
reserves the right to make all make-up exams 100% essay exams. The professor also
reserves the right to issue a zero to any student not adhering to this policy.

Late assignments are accepted with penalties and only until one week after the
original due date. Each day the assignment is late is worth a letter grade. For example,
if the assignment is due at 1pm on November 4th, it is late at 1:01pm on 11/4 and the highest grade you could receive would be a B. If you turned in the assignment on 11/6, the highest grade you would receive would be a D.