



## Coversheet for AJ 4 – Criminal Law

### Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2021

Course ID & Section #: AJ 1-V1702 (Hybrid Zoom/Asynchronous On-Line)

Instructor's name: Professor Gary Sokolow

Course units: 3.0

### Instructor Contact Information

Office hours: As needed

Phone number: None

Email address: Via Canvas messaging system

### Catalog Description

An overview of the development of the criminal law. Topics include: historical development, philosophy of law and constitutional provisions; definitions, classifications of crimes and legal defenses and their applications to the system of administration of justice; legal research, review of case law methodology and concepts of law as a social force. The course will also include some limited discussion of prosecution and defense decision making, criminal culpability, and defenses to crimes.

### Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. List the elements of each crime and defense studied under the English Common Law and modern state or federal law and compare the differences between the Common Law and modern state or federal law
2. Research and explain case law decisions which analyze selected criminal statutes, which include defenses to such crimes
3. Apply selected criminal laws to written word-picture scenarios and other hypothetical situations, and determine whether or not crimes have been committed and whether any defenses to those crimes exist
4. Apply past or current social, historical and political trends to a given set of behaviors (active or passive) to determine why such behavior has been determined to be criminal or not

**AJ 1 is recommended preparation for this course.**

## Accessibility

College of the Redwoods is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

If you are taking online classes DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated.

**AJ 4**

**CRIMINAL LAW  
SYLLABUS**  
(E1702 – v3)

**FALL 2021**

**HYBRID COURSE**

**Th 1:15 PM- 2:40 PM**

**Zoom Sessions/Internet**

Professor Gary A. Sokolow  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Telephone: 444-8630  
E-mail: via Canvas

**COURSE WEB PAGE:**

**[instructure.redwoods.edu](http://instructure.redwoods.edu)**

**STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THIS COURSE WILL BE ABLE TO:**

- List the elements of each crime and defense studied under the English Common Law and modern state or federal law and compare the differences between the Common Law and modern state or federal law
- Research and explain case law decisions which analyze selected criminal statutes, which include defenses to such crimes
- Apply selected criminal laws to written word-picture scenarios and other hypothetical situations, and determine whether crimes have been committed and whether any defenses to those crimes exist
- Apply past or current social, historical and political trends to a given set of behaviors (active or passive) to determine why such behavior has been determined to be criminal or not

**WEB SITE/CLASS PARTICIPATION/EXAMS:** Regular and timely participation in the class is essential. For much of the semester, we will conduct “live” Zoom sessions. What that means is that you will need to log in to Zoom at on Thursdays at by 1:15 PM for a 90-minute session. If “live” Zoom class sessions are cancelled, the class participation grade will count towards the exams.

You should check in with Canvas at least two to three times per week. Any e-mails or phone calls to me will generally be responded to within a day (Sundays excluded).

*Every three weeks or so, I will post a crime scenario exercise (covering two to three textbook chapters) on Canvas and if you choose to work in a team, your group of two or three classmates will need to analyze it and *only one of you* will need to submit it to Canvas/Turnitin for grading. Before the first scenario is posted, use the live class session, introduction posts/e-mails, or any other method of communication to find teammates. Each group will then discuss the crime scenario amongst itself. *All group members will be given the same grade for the group response to the crime scenario.**

*I will look both for quality and quantity when I grade your responses to both the crime scenario exercises and exams. Cutting and pasting or copying verbatim, material from the textbook (or other sources) is by itself, insufficient. In the instructions for both the crime scenarios and exams, I will establish both a due date and a minimum length 'word count'. Any late submissions will be subject to a grade penalty of my choosing.*

*There will be two exams, with the final one being cumulative.* This means that while the primary focus of the final exam is on the chapters covered since the mid-term exam, some part of the questions may require you to deal with matters raised/discussed earlier in the course. The exams will be available for viewing and downloading under the "modules" and/or "files" areas of our course webpage.

The tests will contain detailed instructions for their completion and the electronic submission of them to the Turnitin.com website. *I strongly recommend that you use only a desktop or laptop computer to submit scenarios and exams to Turnitin.com.* I will grade the exams and scenarios in the Turnitin site, where you can then see your grade and my comments on the paper. Once papers are graded electronically through Turnitin, I will post the grades to your Canvas Gradebook. Any exams or scenarios turned in late will be assessed a late grade penalty of my choosing. Employment issues, childcare, computer issues are not excuses for the submission of any late work. **Plan ahead.**

In general, if you are experiencing computer glitches or problems with the Canvas site, either contact me at my home phone number\* listed above or E-mail me directly and/or the College of the Redwoods help desk – [its@redwoods.edu](mailto:its@redwoods.edu) or call the help desk at **707.476.4160** during regular business hours.

*\* I am not in my office on a regular basis. Therefore, the quickest way to reach me is usually via e-mail. When you E-mail me, leave me a contact phone number as well. If the matter is too urgent or complicated to be handled via E-mail, then by all means call me at home and leave a callback number where I can reach you as soon as possible.*

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS/COMPUTER ACCESS:**

*Criminal Law: Twelfth Edition; Joycelyn Pollock; Routledge Publishing; (2021) ---- ISBN-13: 978-0-367-46054-9*

**COURSE GRADE SCALE:**

A	= >95% - 100%
A-	= >90% - 95%
B+	= >85% - 90%
B	= >82% - 85%
B-	= >80% - 82%
C+	= >75% - 80%
C	= >70% - 75%
D	= 61% - 70%
F	= <61%

**CLASS GRADE:\*\*** The course grade will be composed of the following:

✓ Two Exams	65% of grade
✓ Five Crime Scenarios	25% of grade
✓ Attendance/Class Participation	10% of grade**

\*\*If this class is converted to a fully online (asynchronous) class from a hybrid (part synchronous, part asynchronous) class, this portion of the grade will be counted in the two exams category. In other words, both exams will count for 75%, not 65% of the course grade.

For assessments, take home exams and crime scenarios are utilized. Both will require a limited amount of research outside of class readings and lectures, primarily in the California Penal Code and/or Title 18 (Crimes) of the United States Code. The proper use of standard English, which includes grammar, spelling, and punctuation is part of the grade of all written work.

*A grade of "F" on **either** exam **or** the entire attendance/class participation **or** crime scenario grading categories may result in an "F" grade for the entire course.*

**Instructor-Initiated Class Withdrawal Policy:** -- "Excessive Absences" – defined as missing *more than* three live (face to face) and/or virtual (attendance via internet) class sessions or missing more than two weeks of class. This means that if you miss *more than* the three classes, I may withdraw you from the class.

**The "Incomplete" grade status will not be assigned except under extraordinary circumstances.**

### **SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Every Week (Thursday Morning @ 9:00 AM)**, check the 'Modules' Section (navigation area) of the Canvas course webpage. There, depending on the week, you will find several things\*\*\*:

1. The reading assignment for next week's class session.
2. A reminder about the weekly class session, which will tell you what we will cover that day.
3. A video link to either a recording for the class session or a recorded PowerPoint lecture covering the material. -- It will posted within 48 hours, and be available for one week, then you will see it again during exam time to use as a review for the exam, if needed.
4. Every third week or so, directions to the crime scenarios to which you will need to respond to in a timely manner. You are encouraged (but not required) to work with a classmate on the scenarios. These will be submitted to Turnitin.
5. Directions to the two exams when posted, midway through and at the end of the semester. -- You can download and print a copy of the exams and other supporting materials. These will also be submitted to Turnitin.

*\*\*\*All items, e.g. exams, scenarios, or other documents are always found in the "Files" section of our course webpage.*

Every week there will be a chapter to read, a virtual class session to attend and participate by phone or computer and mike, and notes pages to download. Every third week or so, there will be a crime scenario exercise to analyze and the two take-home exams to complete.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <i>The syllabus is subject to change upon advanced notice by posting any changes on the Canvas course page and announcing such change(s) in a class session.</i></li></ul> |
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## Code of Conduct

### Preface:

The purpose of this code is to ensure that both the instructor and students are mindful of the rights and responsibilities of each other. Additionally, adherence to this code will help ensure that the on-line class experience is both meaningful and interesting to all concerned.

### Instructor Expectations:

- Plagiarism – Plagiarism is defined as claiming any work of another person as your own without attribution to the true author. It also includes taking a substantial portion (approximately 25% or more) of your assignment from another source, whether or not credit is given to that source. This includes the work of fellow students. *If a student is found to have plagiarized the work of another, the penalty which the instructor may impose ranges from a failing grade for the assignment to a failing grade for the entire course.*
- Netiquette - In participating in an on-line format, it is expected that all students treat each other with respect. This includes no personal attacks on any other class member or the instructor. I expect that you may disagree with the views of your classmates from time to time, but such disagreements may be expressed in a respectful manner. It is good to remember that we all bring to the class a broad array of life experiences.

### Student Expectations:

- Punctuality – Students have every right to expect that the instructor will offer timely feedback to the discussion questions, crime scenarios, and the grading of exams.
- Civility – Students have a right for the instructor to treat them with respect both in and out of the classroom and to ensure that all students have an opportunity to express their opinions on relevant matters.
- Classroom environment – The instructor will make every attempt to make the classroom experience useful, comfortable, and interesting for the student

*In compliance with equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Students are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S), 707-476-4280, for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.*