

**MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Department:** Social Science  
**Course No.:** CJS 211  
**Course Title:** Criminal Law  
**Credit Hrs.:** 3  
**Faculty Member:** Lisa M. D'Angelo  
**Semester:** Fall 2015  
**Prerequisites:** None  
**Course Location:** Online

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Textbook: Samaha, Joel (2010). *Criminal Law* (11th Ed.). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

E-Mail: All contact shall be through the Blackboard shell.  
If Blackboard is down email: LDAngelo@mxcc.commnet.edu

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

This course is an introduction to the theory, history and purpose of criminal law. The course includes a study of criminal punishments, the U.S. Constitution and penal codes. Students will have an understanding of the criminal court system and discuss significant court cases regarding criminal law.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- (1) To instill a level of competence in the requisite knowledge necessary to understand the workings of criminal law.
- (2) To develop the basic skills necessary for successful academic work and employment in the criminal justice field. This includes regular and timely attendance and submission of assignments; respect for the profession; a proper attitude toward and understanding of others; and a commitment to hard work and excellence.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS- OVERVIEW:**

1. Course materials will be delivered via Blackboard and will enable student to complete their academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. The course is broken down into three modules: Module #1: Chapters 1-2; Module #2: Chapters 3-5; and Module #3: Chapters 6-8.
2. The "lectures" for this course consist of PowerPoint presentations. PowerPoint presentations will be posted on Blackboard for students to access. It is strongly recommended that students read the PowerPoints and textbook.

3. You must contact the instructor in advance if you have a good reason to miss an assignment of exam.  
Only students with a prearranged absence will be permitted to make up assignments or exams.
4. Reading assignments must be completed before completing the discussion forum.  
Questions may be posted on the discussion forum to assure that the readings have been completed, the materials understood, and to stimulate class discussion.
5. Assignments must be turned in on time. Late work will not be accepted. Instructor reserves the right to modify this rule only in exceptional cases.
6. Your grade is the average of points earned and total possible points based on the results of:

Three exams	(200 points each)	600 points
Syllabus Quiz	(25 points)	025 points
5 (out of 6) Discussion Forums	(50 points each)	250 points
5 Reading Quizzes	(25 points each)	125 points

Total: 1000 points

### **IMPORTANT DATES: SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

#### 1. Exams: Due on **Saturdays**

09/05 Syllabus Quiz - Saturday  
 10/03 Exam I (Chapters 1 - 2) Saturday  
 11/07 Exam II (Chapters 3-5) Saturday  
 12/12 Exam III (Chapters 6-8) Saturday

#### 2. Discussion Forum: Initial Posts Due on **Saturdays**. Responses Due on Following **Thursdays**.

09/05 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due  
 09/19 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due  
 10/10 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due  
 10/24 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due  
 11/14 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due  
 11/28 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

### 3. Reading quizzes: Due on **Saturdays**.

09/19: Reading Quiz: Chapters 1 - 2

10/10: Reading Quiz: Chapters 3

10/24: Reading Quiz: Chapters 4 -5

11/14: Reading Quiz: Chapters 6

11/28: Reading Quiz: Chapters 7-8

### **EXAMS:**

Exams will be online with a 2 hour time limit.

They are a combination of multiple-choice, true and false, fill in the blank, matching, and/or short answer. Exams are not generally cumulative, but may be semi-cumulative if necessary. Exam material comes from textbook reading, lecture material, chapter PowerPoints, or any other material posted in the Blackboard Shell.

- Exams must be completed before the deadline of 11:59 pm on the due dates. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Please make certain to read all the chapters and complete all assignments prior to starting the exam.
- Please note that it is the student responsibility to make certain that they have a continuous internet connection for the duration of the exam. Exams will not be reset if they lose internet access during the exam. Once an exam is submitted or closed, it will not be reopened.
- **Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of “F” for the course and immediate referral to the Academic Dean for further disciplinary action.**

### **DISCUSSION FORUMS:**

A legal puzzle is either a hypothetical scenario or a real scenario in which students must analyze, deduce which applicable laws apply, and then answer the legal question being asked. The main objective of these legal puzzles is for students to utilize critical thinking skills and apply information that they are learning in the course.

There will be legal puzzles posted for each discussion forum. The Legal Puzzles are located in Blackboard within each discussion. Students must complete **all 6** forum discussions, the 5 highest scores will count towards final grades.

Each student must post his/her individual response to the legal puzzle questions on the Discussion Board by 11:59 pm on Saturdays. Late work is not accepted.

Students must interact with other students in the course by posting questions and addressing the initial posts of **TWO** of their classmates. Response posts are due by Thursday evenings, 11:59 pm. Response posts need to be made on different days of the week. These responses must be informative and contribute to the advancing knowledge of the topic. “Good job,” or “nice post,” are not acceptable.

**Initial Post: Legal Puzzle Requirements:**

- 200 to 250 words in length – no more no less (refers only to the body of your response)
- 12 font – Times New Roman
- Proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Supported by Two Scholarly Sources – one will be the textbook and the second is the student’s choice.
- **In text citations and references required.**
- Please note that all rules in regards to plagiarism and proper citations must be followed.
- **Type your legal puzzle in WORD and then paste it into the discussion forum AND submit it through the Safe Assign assignment module. The assignment module will check the document for plagiarism.**
- **\*\*\*\*When you have a question about citing information correctly – ASK FOR HELP!\*\*\*\***
- **DO NOT** send assignments via a message or email – they will not be accepted.

**Response Posts: Requirements:**

- Respond to at least 2 classmates’ initial posts.
- Each post must be at least 125 words in length.
- Response posts must be made on different days of the week: ex. Sunday and Wednesday.
- 12 font – Times New Roman
- Proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure

**SYLLABUS QUIZ AND READING QUIZZES:**

**Syllabus Quiz:** Students will take a brief quiz on the syllabus and introductory material during the first two days of the course. Students should review the Introduction PowerPoint which will outline the expectations for the course. Questions on the syllabus quiz will pertain to policies, procedures, and the general format of the course. The quiz is meant as a vehicle to test students’ understanding of the expectations for the course.

**Reading Quizzes:** Students will have to complete a chapter Reading Quiz. Each reading quiz will pertain to assigned chapters in the textbook. The format of the quizzes will consist of multiple-choice, fill in the blank, and/or matching. The time limit for each quiz will be 30 minutes. Once again, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have continuous internet access for the duration of the quiz. Quizzes will not be reset if a student loses their connection or closes the exam.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRADING SCALE:**

**Letter Grade: Percentage:**

**A 93-100**

**A- 90-92**

**B+ 87-89**

**B 83-86**

**B- 80-82**

**C+ 77-79**

**Letter Grade: Percentage:**

**C 73-76**

**C- 70-72**

**D+ 67-69**

**D 63-66**

**D- 60-62**

**F Below 60**

**WITHDRAWAL:**

Withdrawal: Student may withdraw from the class with a grade of "W" before the 4th week of classes. After that date, students will receive a "W" or an "F." Students may withdrawal from the course only after speaking with the instructor and filing all the proper paperwork. Note: The primary responsibility for initiating a withdrawal rests with the students. Withdrawal from the course is official only when initiated in writing through the Records office, all requested signatures are obtained, and the proper papers are filed with the Records Office by the indicated deadlines.

**CLASS CANCELLATION AND OTHER MxCC POLICIES:**

In the event of inclement weather either before the start of the day when classes are in session or during the school day, you may check for information on delayed openings, college closings, class cancellations, etc, but listing to the local radio stations and television stations. Additionally, a message will be posted on the MxCC website at [www.mxcc.commnet.edu](http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu) and an announcement is made on the college's main phone number (860) 343-5800. When calling the main phone number, be sure to choose option #1 from the menu for school closings. If classes are already in session, everyone on campus will be notified of any changes. Decisions to cancel classes or close the college early will be made as soon as practicable.

**Additional Syllabus Information:** For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/)

### **ANTI-PLAGIARISM DETECTION SOFTWARE:**

Safe Assign, TurnItIn or other anti-plagiarism detection software products may be used in this course. Anti-plagiarism detection software products assist faculty and students in preventing and detecting plagiarism. Professors may utilize such software in order to check the originality of the academic work students submit in a course by comparing submitted papers to those contained in its database consisting of submitted papers and other sources. Anti-plagiarism detection software returns an “originality report” for each submission. The report is limited in scope to merely identifying passages that are not original to the author of the submitted work and which may include correctly cited quotations and information. Professors and students must carefully review such reports. No adverse action may be taken by a professor with respect to a student solely on the basis of an originality report which indicates the potential for plagiarism.

In this course you may be asked to submit your academic papers and other creative work containing personally identifiable information for originality reporting. By doing so, your work along with personally identifiable information will be retained in the product database and may be subsequently reported out containing your personally identifiable information not only to your professor, but also to professors of other universities and colleges within Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) as part of subsequent originality reports.

You may decline to submit your work for originality reporting. If so, you must be provided an alternative method in which to submit your work. However, your professor, after removing your personally identifying information, may nonetheless submit limited portions of your academic work for originality reporting.

All Legal Puzzle Discussion Responses must be submitted via a Safe Assign Assignment in the Blackboard Course Shell. Please note that assignments that are not submitted via Blackboard will not be accepted.

**Disclaimer:** The instructor reserves the right to amend any portion of this syllabus to meet the educational needs of the students in the course.

## **IMPORTANT COLLEGE POLICIES!! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/) or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/](http://www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/).



## **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

- Primary Title IX Coordinator  
Dr. Adrienne Maslin  
Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator  
[amaslin@mxcc.edu](mailto:amaslin@mxcc.edu); 860-343-5759; Founders Hall Room 123 |
- Secondary Title IX Coordinator  
Ms. Queen Fordham  
Coordinator of the Meriden Center Welcome Desk  
[qfordham@mxcc.edu](mailto:qfordham@mxcc.edu); 203-608-3011

### **Class Schedule (Subject to Change):**

#### **Week 1: 08/30/2015 – Introduction and Chapter 1**

Syllabus Quiz Due 09/05/2015

Discussion Forum # 1 Initial Post Due 09/05/2015

#### **Week 2: 09/06/2015 – Chapter 1**

Discussion Forum # 1 Responses Due 09/10/2015

#### **Week 3: 09/13/2015 – Chapters 2**

Reading Quiz # 1 Due 09/19/2015

Discussion Forum # 2 Initial Post Due 09/19/2015

Week 4: 09/20/2015 – Chapter 2  
Discussion Forum # 2 Responses Due 09/24/2015

Week 5: 09/27/2015 – Chapters 1 & 2  
Exam # 1 Due 10/03/2015

Week 6: 10/04/2015 – Chapter 3  
Reading Quiz # 2 Due 10/10/2015  
Discussion Forum # 3 Initial Post Due 10/10/2105

Week 7: 10/11/2015 – Chapter 3  
Discussion Forum # 3 Responses Due 10/15/2015

Week 8: 10/18/2015 – Chapters 4 & 5  
Reading Quiz # 3 Due 10/24/2015  
Discussion Forum # 4 Initial Post Due 10/24/2015

Week 9: 10/25/2015 – Chapters 4 & 5  
Discussion Forum # 4 Responses Due 10/29/2015

Week 10: 11/01/2015 – Chapters 3, 4 & 5  
Exam # 2 Due 11/07/2015

Week 11: 11/08/2015 – Chapter 6  
Reading Quiz # 4 Due 11/14/2015  
Discussion Forum # 5 Initial Post Due 11/14/2015

Week 12: 11/15/2015 – Chapter 6  
Discussion Forum # 5 Responses Due 11/19/2015

Week 13: 11/22/2015 – Chapter 7 & 8  
Reading Quiz # 5 Due 11/28/2015  
Discussion Forum # 6 Initial Post Due 11/28/2015

Week 14: 11/29/2015 – Chapter 7 & 8  
Discussion Forum # 6 Responses Due 12/03/2015

Week 15: 12/06/2015 – Chapters 6, 7 & 8  
Exam # 3 Due 12/12/2015