



# MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Department:** Social Science: Criminal Justice  
**Course:** CJS 211: Criminal Law I (CRN: 1205)  
**Faculty Member:** Lisa M. D'Angelo  
**Semester:** Spring 2016  
**Course Location:** Online – Accelerated: Jan 21<sup>st</sup> – Feb 26th

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Textbook: Samaha, Joel (2014). *Criminal Law* (11th Ed.). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.  
ISBN: 9781285061917

E-Mail: **All contact shall be through the message feature in Blackboard.**  
If Blackboard is down, email: LDAngelo@mxcc.commnet.edu

### SCOPE OF COURSE:

A study of the act(s) and mental state(s) which make up the elements of a crime. The analysis of these criminal elements will allow exploration into a wide spectrum of criminal law including felonies and misdemeanors. This is not a course specifically addressing Connecticut laws, although they will be discussed in comparison with other state and federal court decisions.

***Prerequisites:*** ENG 101, ENG 101 E or ENG ALP with a "C-" or better AND completion of CJS 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice with a "C-" or better.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Read and comprehend statutory law.
- Identify and interpret essential elements of current modern criminal statutes.
- Evaluate legitimate criminal defenses as applied to criminal case examples.
- Apply constitutional principles that protect the rights of citizens and regulate the passage of laws as defined by legislature, enforced by executive action, and reviewed through the courts.
- Explain key critical concepts as they relate to processes and practices in criminal law.

### 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 (available 01/17/2016); Module #2:

Chapters 3-5 (available 01/31/2016); and Module # 3: Chapters 6-8 (available 02/14/2016).

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	(30 points)	30 points
5 Discussion Forums	(50 points each)	250 points
4 Reading Quizzes	(30 points each)	120 points

Total: 1000 points

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

#### 1. Exams: Due on **Sundays (\* Exam III is due on a Friday)**

01/24/2016	Syllabus Quiz
01/31/2016	Exam I (Chapters 1 - 2)
02/14/2016	Exam II (Chapters 3-5)
02/26/2016*	Exam III (Chapters 6-8)

#### 2. Discussion Forum: Initial Posts Due on **Wednesdays**. Responses Due on Following **Sunday**. **(\* Week 5 Initial Post is due on a Tuesday and the Responses are due on a Friday)**

01/27/2016	Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due (Responses Due 01/31/2016)
02/03/2016	Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due (Responses Due 02/07/2016)

02/10/2016	Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due (Responses Due 02/14/2016)
02/17/2016	Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due (Responses Due 02/21/2016)
02/23/2016*	Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due (Responses Due 02/26/2016*)

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

01/27: Reading Quiz: Chapters 1 & 2  
 02/03: Reading Quiz: Chapters 3 & 4  
 02/10: Reading Quiz: Chapters 5  
 02/17: Reading Quiz: Chapters 6 & 7

### **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. (Exams submitted after the due date at 12:00am and later 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.
- Once you begin the exam, you must finish in one sitting.
- **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. In this course, most legal puzzles will focus on the case law discussed in textbook.

There will be legal puzzles posted for each discussion forum. The Legal Puzzles are located in Blackboard within each discussion. Students must complete all 5 forum discussions.

Each student must post his/her individual response to the legal puzzle questions on the **Discussion Board and submit it through SafeAssign by 11:59 pm on Wednesday (# 5 is due on a Tuesday)**. 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 Sunday evenings by 11:59 pm (# 5 responses are due on a Friday)**. 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:**

- Minimum 250 words in length – (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. **Wikipedia** is not a scholarly source. Please refer to the “Criminal Justice Writing Resources” section on the Criminal Justice Program BlackBoard shell.
- **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. Monday 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 20 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: The last day a student may withdraw from this course with a grade of "W" is February 17, 2016. 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, on the local radio stations and television stations. Additionally, a message will be posted on the MxCC website at [www.mxcc.comnet.edu](http://www.mxcc.comnet.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: 01/24/2016 :

Due 01/24/2016: Syllabus Quiz  
Due 01/27/2016: Reading Quiz # 1 (Chapters 1-2)  
Discussion Forum # 1: Initial Post  
Due 01/31/2016: Exam # 1 (Chapters 1-2)  
Discussion Forum # 1: Responses

Week 2: 01/31/2016:

Due 02/03/2016: Reading Quiz # 2 (Chapters 3-4)  
Discussion Forum # 2: Initial Post  
Due 02/07/2016: Discussion Forum # 2: Responses

Week 3: 02/07/2016 :

Due 02/10/2016: Reading Quiz # 3 (Chapters 5)  
Discussion Forum # 3: Initial Post  
Due 02/14/2016: Exam # 2 (Chapters 3-5)  
Discussion Forum # 3: Responses

Week 4: 02/14/2016 :

Due 02/17/2016: Discussion Forum # 4: Initial Post  
Due 02/21/2016: Reading Quiz # 4 (Chapters 6-7)  
Discussion Forum # 4: Responses

Week 5: 02/21/2016 :

Due 02/23/2016: Discussion Forum # 5: Initial Post  
Due 02/26/2016: Exam # 3 (Chapters 6-8)  
Discussion Forum # 5: Responses