

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A. Department Information:

Division: Criminal Justice  
Department: Criminal Justice  
Course ID: POLICE 100  
Course Title: Criminal Law  
Units: 3  
Lecture: 48 hours  
Laboratory: None  
Prerequisite: None  
Corequisite: Must also enroll in POLICE 002, 101, 102 and 103.

B. Catalog and Schedule Description:

The historical development and theories associated with criminal law and its contemporary application. This course will focus on the relationship between criminal law and the criminal justice system. Classification of crimes and their application to the criminal justice system will also be covered in the course. **ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED TO THOSE STUDENTS WHO MEET THE SCREENING REQUIREMENTS AS OUTLINED IN THE GOVERNMENT CODE, PENAL CODE AND THE COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL.**  
*Associate Degree Applicable*  
*Course transfers to CSU*

**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One**

**III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- A. Recognize when property crimes have occurred, identify the crimes by their correct names, and classify them as either misdemeanors or felonies.
- B. Identify when crimes against a person have occurred, to identify crimes by their common names, and to classify them as either misdemeanor or felonies.
- C. Define crimes against children, identify the crimes by their common names, and classify them as either misdemeanors or felonies.
- D. Compare and contrast California child abuse reporting requirements.
- E. Interpret when sex crimes have been committed, identify the crimes by their common names, and classify them as either misdemeanors or felonies.
- F. Recognize when a crime against the judicial system has occurred, identify the crimes by the common names, and classify them as either misdemeanors or felonies.
- G. Recognize when a weapons violation has occurred, identify the crimes by their common names, and classify them as misdemeanors or felonies.
- H. Analyze and interpret relevant laws and court decisions.
- I. Recognize when a crime against the public peace has occurred.

**IV. CONTENT:**

A. Overview

A basic introduction to criminal law. Read and understand the California Penal Code, the types, classifications and the history of laws.

B. Review of Critical Legal Concepts

- 1. Corpus Delecti.
- 2. Criminal Intent
- 3. Crime Classification

4. Legal Terms
  5. California Penal Codes
- C. Crimes Against Property
1. Theft
  2. Definition – Penal Code 484
  3. Elements of Theft
  4. Crime Classifications
    - a. Grand Theft Penal Code 487
    - b. Petty Theft Penal Code 486
    - c. Discussion
    - d. Other types of theft
      1. Theft
      2. Theft by Trick or Device
      3. Access Cards
- D. Joyriding/Vehicle Theft
1. Joyriding defined - Penal Code 499(b)
  2. Vehicle Theft defined – Vehicle Code 10851
  3. Grand Theft Auto – Penal Code 487h
- E. Defrauding an Innkeeper
1. Elements Penal Code 537
  2. Crime Classification
  3. Misdemeanor - \$400 or less
  4. Felony - \$400 or more
  5. Exception Penal Code 537b
- F. Appropriate of Lost Property
1. Elements – Penal Code 485
  2. Crime Classification
- G. Unauthorized Entry of Property/Trespassing
1. Trespassing with credible threat to cause injury
  2. Entering and occupying real property – Penal Code 602(l)
  3. Trespass to land
  4. Intentional interference with business by obstructing or intimidating customers – Penal Code 602.1
- H. Burglary
1. Definition Penal Code 459
  2. Elements
  3. Crime Classification - Felony
  4. Discussion
  5. Intent
- I. Possession of Burglary Tools
1. Definition – Penal Code 466
  2. Elements
  3. Crime Classification – Misdemeanor
- J. Alteration of Serial Numbers
1. Alteration of Serial Numbers or Identification Marks – Penal Code 537e
  2. Crime Classification
    - a. Misdemeanor
    - b. Felony
    - c. Related Statutes

- K. Receiving Stolen Property
  - 1. Elements – Penal Code 496
  - 2. Crime Classification
    - a. Felony
  - 3. Discussion
  
- L. Embezzlement
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Crime Classification
    - a. Felony
    - b. Misdemeanor
  - 3. Discussion
  
- M. Forgery
  - 1. Definition Penal Code 470
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification – Felony
  - 4. Related Statutes
  
- N. Writing Checks with Intent to Defraud
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification
    - a. Misdemeanor \$200 or less
    - b. Felony - \$200 or more
  
- O. Vandalism
  - 1. Definition – Penal Code 594
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification
    - a. Felony
    - b. Misdemeanor
  
- P. Cruelty to Animals
  - 1. Definition – Penal Code 597
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification - Felony
  - 4. Related statutes
  
- Q. Arson
  - 1. Definition – Penal Code 451
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification
    - a. Felony
    - b. Exception
  
- R. Aggravated Arson
  - 1. Definition – Penal Code 451.5
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification – Felony
  - 4. Intent
  - 5. Discussion

- S. Possession of a Firebomb
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification
    - a. Felony – Penal Code 453a & 453b
  - 4. Terminology
  - 5. Related Statutes
  
- T. Aid, Counsel or Procure the Burning of Property or Land
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification – Felony
  - 4. Related Statutes – Penal Code 548
  
- U. Landlord/Tenant Disputes
  - 1. Peace officers responsibilities and duties
  - 2. Unlawful conduct by landlord
  - 3. Unlawful conduct by tenant
  
- V. Crimes Against Persons
  - 1. Assault
  - 2. Definition
  - 3. Elements of Assault
  - 4. Crime Classification
  - 5. Intent
  - 6. Discussion
  - 7. Assault on a Peace Officer and other specified individuals
  
- W. Battery
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Elements of Battery
  - 3. Discussion
  - 4. Crime Classification
  - 5. Battery as a General Intent Crime
  
- X. Assault with a Deadly Weapon
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Elements of Assault with a Deadly Weapon
  - 3. Crime Classification - Felony
  
- Y. Mayhem
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Elements of Mayhem
  - 3. Crime Classification - Felony
  
- Z. Infliction of Corporal Injury on a Spouse or Co-Habitant
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Elements of Corporal Injury to a Spouse
  - 3. Crime Classification – Felony
  - 4. Discussion
  - 5. Examples
  
- AA. Stalking and Terrorist Threats
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Elements of Stalking
  - 3. Crime Classification – Felony

4. Stalking as a Specific Intent Crime
  5. Discussion
- BB. Robbery
1. Definition – PC 211
  2. Elements of Robbery
- CC. Carjacking
1. Definition
  2. Elements of Carjacking
  3. Crime Classification – Felony
  4. Discussion
- DD. Extortion
1. Definition – Penal Code 518
  2. Elements of Extortion
  3. Crime Classification – Felony
  4. Extortion as a Specific Intent Crime
  5. Discussion
  6. Related Statutes
- EE. False Imprisonment
1. Definition – Penal Code 236
  2. Elements of False Imprisonment
  3. Crime Classification
    - a. Misdemeanor
    - b. Felony
  4. False Imprisonment as a General Intent Crime
  5. Discussion
  6. Related Statutes
- FF. Kidnapping
1. Definition – Penal Code 207(a)
  2. Elements of Kidnapping
  3. Crime Classification – Felony
  4. Kidnapping as a General Intent Crime
  5. Discussion
  6. Related Statutes
- GG. Child Abduction
1. Definition – Penal Code 277
  2. Elements of Child Abduction
  3. Crime Classification – Felony
  4. Child Abduction as a Specific Intent Crime
  5. Discussion
  6. Unlawful Detention
- HH. Crimes Against Elders and Dependent Adults
1. Definition – Penal Code 368(a), 368(b) and 368(c)
  2. Elements
  3. Crime Classifications
- II. Excusable and Justifiable Homicide
1. Definition
    - a. Lawful

- 2. Excusable
    - 3. Justifiable
  - b. Unlawful
    - 1. Murder
    - 2. Manslaughter
  - 2. Justifiable Homicide
    - a. By Public Officer
    - b. Other than Public Officers
- JJ. Manslaughter
  - 1. Voluntarily
  - 2. Involuntary
  - 3. Vehicular
- KK. Murder
  - 1. Definition – Penal Code 187
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification – Felony
  - 4. Murder as a Specific Intent Crime
  - 5. Terminology
  - 6. Degrees
  - 7. Felony Murder Rule
  - 8. Penal Code 194
- LL. Aiding, Advising or Encouraging a Suicide
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification - Felony
  - 4. Aiding, Advising or Encouraging Suicide as a Specific Intent Crime
- MM. General Criminal Statutes
  - 1. Solicitation
  - 2. Conspiracy
  - 3. Attempts and Inchoate Crimes
- NN. Disturbing the Peace
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Unlawful Fights or Challenges
- OO. Crimes Against Children
  - 1. Child Endangerment
  - 2. Definition – Penal Code 273a
  - 3. Elements of the offense – Felony/Misdemeanor
- PP. Sex Crimes
  - 1. Assault with the intent to commit certain felonies
  - 2. Definition
  - 3. Elements
- QQ. Indecent Exposure
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification
  - 4. Terminology

- RR. Oral Copulation
  - 1. Definition – Penal Code 288a
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification – Felony
  - 4. Statutes of Limitations
  
- SS. Rape
  - 1. Definition – Penal Code 261
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification - Felony
  - 4. Terminology
  - 5. Statute of Limitations
  - 6. Other Related Statutes
  
- TT. Crimes Against the Justice System
  - 1. Bribery
  - 2. Perjury
  - 3. Violation of Court Order
  - 4. Unlawful assembly
  
- UU. Weapon Violations
  - 1. Possession of Tear Gas
  - 2. Corpus Delecti
  - 3. Elements
  - 4. Penal Code 12420
  
- VV. Possession of Switchblade Knife
  - 1. Definition – Penal Code 653k
  - 2. Elements
  - 3. Crime Classification – Misdemeanor
  - 4. Terminology
  - 5. Discussion
  
- WW. Possession of Deadly Weapons
  - 1. Definition – Penal Code 12020
  - 2. Elements
    - a. Manufacture, Import, Supply, Gives, Lends or Possesses
    - b. Types of Weapons
  - 3. Felony
  - 4. Discussion
  - 5. Other Related Statutes
  
- XX. Weapons on School Grounds
  - 1. On School or College Grounds – Penal Code 626.9
    - a. Elements
    - b. Crime Classification – Felony
    - c. Exceptions
  - 2. Extended to playground or youth center – Penal Code 629.95
    - a. Elements
    - b. Terminology
    - c. Crime Classification – Felony (Wobbler)
  - 3. Other School Grounds – Penal Code 626.10
    - a. Elements
    - b. Exceptions

**V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Practical Exercises/Demonstration
- D. Audio-Visual
- E. Participation/Role Play

**VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:**

- A. Reading: Read current Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) approved handouts and workbooks related to the Public Safety field.
  - 1. After reading selected chapters on criminal law, students will discuss the basic elements of criminal crimes and classification.
- B. Writing: Typical writing assignments include memorandums familiarizing the student with the numerous penal codes and describing the different aspects of the codes in compliance with the State of California in conjunction with law enforcement.
  - 1. Students will also prepare reports of law enforcement situations including traffic stops and questioning suspects.
- C. Critical Evaluation of Videotapes: View current POST approved videos related to Criminal Law.
  - 1. Students will interpret and discuss the material presented in the videos

**VII. EVALUATION:**

- A. Methods of Evaluation
  - 1. Examinations
    - a. Typical examination questions:  
To commit the crime of burglary you must have the specific intent to enter a structure to commit the theft.
      - a) True
      - b) False
    - b. To meet the requirements of Grand Theft PC487, the following elements are required:
      - a) Taking property less than \$400
      - b) Taking property more than \$400
      - c) None of the above
  - 2. Subjective evaluation of student writing. Students are evaluated on their ability to apply course concepts to what they read or experience.
- B. Frequency of evaluation
  - 1. Minimum of two (2) examinations per class, or as deemed appropriate throughout the course of the connection with the instruction.



San Bernardino Valley College  
Curriculum Approved: March 24, 2003  
Last Updated: January 21, 2003

**VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):**

Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), Performance Objectives for the Regular Basic Course, Sacramento, CA., 2002

Gould's, Penal Code Handbook of California, Longwood, FL., most recent edition  
Handouts provided by the instructor

**IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF THE STUDENTS:**

Three ring binder  
Book carry case