SYLLABUS

CLASS: CRIMINAL LAW (Course PLS 330/CRJ 330), Lincoln Campus

INSTRUCTOR: Edward “Ed” Hoffman
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to basic concepts regarding criminal procedure and criminal law. The course covers the development of the American criminal legal system and places it in its historical context. You will learn how the American criminal legal system works, including how a case proceeds from the commission of an act (which may be a crime) through trial, appeal, incarceration and release. You will also learn about the procedural protections afforded by the Constitution and Bill of Rights. In addition, you will become familiar with the wide range of behavior that is considered “criminal.”

LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Students will be expected to have a general understanding of the concepts covered in the course to include, but not be limited to: a basic understanding of the criminal law process and its history, an understanding of the concepts of mens reus and actus reus, an understanding of felony murder and manslaughter, sex crimes and their various forms, domestic violence and hate crimes, an understanding concerning crimes against property including theft, robbery, burglary and arson, crimes against the state and social crimes such as prostitution, public indecency and gambling. Students will also be expected to understand basic concepts concerning constitutional rights both before and after arrest and post conviction.

LEARNING STRATEGIES: The classroom educational environment will include lecture, robust discussion in which the instructor intentionally pulls information from students and encourages them to apply the information gleaned from in the textbook and discussed in class to fact patterns offered by the instructor. The course will also potentially include the black and white film titled “To Kill a Mockingbird” which is intended to further enhance a basic understanding of the legal system.

PAPER: I will provide you the topics of the paper at the first class meeting. The paper is to be at least two pages, double spaced, one inch margins on all sides. Please include your name and the date submitted and the class name. I would like you to discuss the case facts, the issue(s) that was presented to the court (e.g. the issue(s) the court was asked to make a decision on), discuss the courts analysis of that issue commenting on what prior cases they felt were important and why and discuss the rules of law from those cases and end with the Court’s conclusion and ruling. Finally, I would like to hear your thoughts on the case and what your opinion is on the court’s decision. Please feel free to utilize on-line sources, citing where appropriate. Your paper
is due on the date noted on the assignment and reading schedule below but you can certainly turn it in prior to that date.

**Academic Integrity:** This class follows the Doane College Academic Honesty Policy. All materials submitted for this class are expected to be original by the student and should not have been submitted for credit to any other course. Academic integrity is expected for all interactions and requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, original work on assignments, accountability and completion of requirements, maintenance of confidentiality for individuals, and accurate citation of and references to original work. Specific information about Academic Honesty and Plagiarism may be found in the Doane Student Handbook. When applicable, assignments must be typed and adhere to the APA 6th Edition guidelines. This includes crediting authors when paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting the work of other individuals. Resources for APA formatting are available on Blackboard. Mechanics of writing are considered in the grading of assignments. Therefore, it is expected that you will proofread all work for accurate spelling, grammar, and punctuation before submitting assignments and projects. Depth of thought, application, and analysis demonstrated in the assignment will be considered in the grading process. All work is expected to be of highest quality. Work may be turned back to the student for review and revision.

**Grading:** Your grade will be based on satisfactory completion of exams as well as your score on your paper. As stated, your grade will be based on attendance and participation in class activities, as well as satisfactory completion of exams. Active class participation is vital to the overall learning process and your successful completion of the course.

While attendance only carries a 20% weight for the final grade, it is important that students remember that we are only meeting eight times during the term. For that reason, the following applies to attendance:

**Attendance:**

- Perfect Attendance: A
- One Excused Absence**: A
- Two Excused Absences: B
- Three Absences: C
- Four Absences: D
- Five or more Absences: F

** Students may have one excused absence without it affecting the attendance grade if the student emails in the absence prior to class time.**
Classes will be held on the following dates for the term:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Chapter 1 and 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Chapters 3, 4 and 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Chapters 6 and 7 (Exam on Chapters 1-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Chapters 8 and 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Chapters 10 and 11</td>
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<td>November 24</td>
<td>Chapters 12, 13 and 14</td>
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<td>December 1</td>
<td>Paper and optional projects due, Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong> (Exam on Chapters 6-14)</td>
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Both of the exams will be comprised of a mix of True/False, Multiple Choice, and Short Answer Essay. You will be responsible for anything assigned for class reading and class discussions. Each student may choose to do an optional project, which can be used to raise an exam grade by a full letter grade. Said optional project will be due no later than **December 8, 2015**. Potential project topics will be discussed with students and all project topics must be approved prior to the student beginning work.