

SOC 379 - Criminal Law

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE CREDIT: 3 Semester Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course begins with an overview of the concept of punishment and goes on to study the burden of proof and criminal defenses; it also provides a critical look at the most common crimes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn common terminology in criminal law and how to consider a crime thoroughly in terms of its elements.

TEXTS, READINGS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:

Required: Loewy, A.H. (2003). Criminal Law in a Nutshell, 4th Edition. St. Paul, MN: West Group. ISBN 0314145184

Recommended: Garner, B, ed. (2006) *Black's Law Dictionary*, (3rd pocket ed.). Thomson West. ISBN 0314158626

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students will complete 2 proctored exams and 6 written assignments.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE: Students must complete all exams and coursework with a 70% or higher to pass this class.

COURSE INSTRUCTIONS AND COURSEWORK SCHEDULE:

Participation: This is an independent study course. Students are expected to do the required reading, and complete all the assignments with a 70% or higher.

Projects: 300 points. There will be six writing assignments worth 50 points each.