

**CJ 264**  
**Fundamentals of Criminal Law**  
**Summer 1 2008**

Professor: Kelly T. Weeks, J.D.  
Board Certified-Criminal Law  
Texas Board of Legal Specialization  
Office: CL23  
Phone: 294-3646  
E-Mail: ktw001@shsu.edu  
Class Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 12:00-1:50  
Classroom: A209  
Office Hours: Monday 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Required Readings**

Criminal Laws of Texas (TDCAA) 2007-2009

**Course Description**

A course in the substantive criminal law which includes definitions of law, definitions of crimes, general principles of criminal responsibility, elements of major crimes, punishments and conditions or circumstances which may excuse someone from criminal responsibility or mitigate punishment. Particular emphasis is on the penal laws of the State of Texas.

**Course Objectives**

The primary objectives of this course are:

1. Acquaint the student with the basic principles that underlie the American system of law.
2. Acquaint the student with the elements of the primary state criminal offenses as defined by the Texas Penal Code.
3. Acquaint the student with defenses and other mitigation of criminal responsibility and/or punishment.

**Course Requirements**

Exams – there will be 4 exams. Each will be worth 100 points. Each exam will include additional bonus points from subjects mentioned in the lecture.

**Grading Policy**

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Exam 4	100 points

Class participation will be considered in determining your final grade

Total	400 points
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A	90-100	360-400
B	80-89	320-359
C	70-79	280-319
D	60-69	240-279
F	59 or below	below 240

### **Makeup Exam Policy**

At the discretion of the professor, students who have documentation for a justified absence or illness of the student will be allowed to take a makeup exam one week from the original test date.

### **Attendance & Class Participation**

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with **Academic Policy Statement 800401**. It is expected that students will attend **EACH** class session, complete reading assignments and contribute to class discussions. Throughout the course of the semester, a student is allowed a maximum of four unexcused absences. **Students missing more than four unexcused absences will have their final grade lowered one letter grade for each unexcused absence after the 4<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence.** Students must have documentation for a justified absence or illness. It is within Professor Weeks' discretion what is considered a justified absence or illness. It is the responsibility of the student to sign the roll sheet. Failure to sign the roll sheet will be considered as an absence. Falsely signing the roll sheet will be an automatic failure of the course.

### **Class Behavior**

All cell phones will be turned off. No text messaging will be allowed. Talking amongst each other, reading a newspaper or eating will not be tolerated. You may be excused from the class for any of the above disruptions.

Students in this class will be challenged to welcome and embrace diversity of opinion. Personal attacks against another's belief system will not be tolerated. They will be identified as such by the professor (or any other class participant who senses that discussions have moved to a personal level) and stopped. Students who continue to engage in personal level challenges will first be counseled by the professor; but may ultimately be dropped from the class.

### **Academic Honesty**

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

### **Disabled Student Policy**

<http://www.shsu.edu/schedule>

**Services for Disabled Students**

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy**

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

**COURSE CALENDAR**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>ASSIGNED READINGS:</b>	<b>ISSUES OF DISCUSSION:</b>
June 3	See blackboard and powerpoint	Introduction to Class; Introduction to Law and Basic Principles of Criminal Law
June 4	See powerpoint	The Criminal Process
June 5	TPC 46.01-.15	Offenses Involving Weapons
June 6	TPC Chapter 6 & 7	Culpability generally and Criminal Responsibility for Conduct of Another
June 9	TPC Chapter 12, CCP Article 12 & 13	Offense Levels and Punishment and Statute of Limitations and Venue & review
June 10	Exam #1	
June 11	TPC Chapter 20,22, and 25 (non sex offenses)	Offenses against a Person
June 12	TPC Chapter 21, TPC sec. 22.011,Sec. 22.021, sec. 25.02,sec. 33.021, TPC Ch. 43	Sex Offenses
June 13	TPC Chapter 21, TPC sec. 22.011,Sec. 22.021, sec. 25.02,sec. 33.021, TPC Ch. 43, & TPC Chapter 19	Homicide & review
June 16	Exam #2	
June 17	TPC Chapters 28-35	Offenses against property
June 18	TPC Chapter 28-35,49	Offenses against property and Intoxication offenses
June 19	Controlled Substances Act 481-485 TPC Chapter 38	Drug offenses
June 20	TPC Chapter 38	Obstructing government operations & review
June 23	Exam #3	

June 24	TPC sec. 39.03, sec. 39.04, sec. 22.11, sec. 46.10, sec. 38.11, sec. 38.111	Prison Crimes
June 25	TPC Chapter 15 & 16, TPC Chapter 8	Inchoate offenses & Defenses
July 26	TPC Chapter 8 & 9	Defenses & Justifications
June 27	TPC 9	Justifications
June 30		Review
July 1	Final Exam 12:00-1:50	

**THE ABOVE SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE, AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE PROFESOR'S DISCRETION**