

STEPHANIE STROUD  
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Sam Houston State University  
College of Criminal Justice  
Classroom: A209

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Office Hours: 5-6pm Tuesday.  
or by Appointment

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**Fundamentals of Criminal Law**  
**CJ 264**  
**Fall 2007**  
**(Tuesday 6-9pm)**

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

**Objectives:**

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.
4. Improve student analytical and abstract thinking skills.

**Textbook:**

*Criminal Laws of Texas* (TDCAA) 2007  
This book can only be purchased at Bearkat Books.

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday, 5:00-6:00pm or by appointment

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**Outline of Topics:**

Week 1:	August 21, 2007	Introduction
Week 2:	August 28, 2007	Basic Principles of Criminal Law
Week 3:	September 4, 2007	The Court System
Week 4:	September 11, 2007	The Criminal Process
Week 5:	September 18, 2007	Criminal Responsibility Offense Level and Punishments TPC Chapter 6 TPC Chapter 7 TPC Chapter 12
Week 6:	September 25, 2007	EXAM ONE

Week 7:	October 2, 2007	Homicide TPC Chapter 19
Week 8:	October 9, 2007	Offenses Against the Person TPC Ch. 20 TPC Ch. 22 TPC Ch. 25
Week 9:	October 16, 2007	Sex Offenses TPC Ch. 21 TPC Ch. 22.011 TPC Ch. 22.021 TPC Ch. 25.01 TPC Ch. 25.02 TPC Ch. 33.021 TPC Ch. 43
Week 10:	October 23, 2007	Offenses Against the Property TPC Title 7 (Chapters 28-35)
Week 11:	October 30, 2007	EXAM TWO
Week 12:	November 6, 2007	Intoxication Offenses TPC Ch. 49
Week 13:	November 13, 2007	Drug Offenses Texas Health & Safety Code Chapters 481-485
Week 14:	November 20, 2007	EXAM THREE
Week 15:	November 27, 2007	Other Crimes of Interest TPC Chapter 36.02 TPC Chapter 36.05 TPC Chapter 36.06 TPC Chapter 37.02 TPC Chapter 37.03 TPC Chapter 37.08
Week 16:	December 4, 2007	A Final Analysis

**FINAL EXAM:** December 11, 2007

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- **Weekly Class Assignment and Quizzes –**  
You will be responsible for reading the sections of the text book listed for each class session above. Each week I will post an additional reading assignment on Blackboard no later than Friday at 5:00pm. The readings will consist of articles

or published court opinions. You will be responsible for reading the assignment and preparing a one page summary of the article or case brief of the opinion as assigned. The form for the case brief will be posted on Blackboard. These summaries will be collected on a random basis and failure to submit them when requested will result in a deduction of your class participation grade. There will also be a series of random quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will be given during the first ten minutes of the scheduled class meeting and will be made up of questions regarding the assigned reading material. There will be no make-up quizzes. Failure to take the quiz at the scheduled time will result in a score of 0 for that quiz.

- **Grading Policy** –  
There will be three examinations and one comprehensive final examination. Each examination including the final exam will be worth 20% of your grade. The remaining 20% will be based on assignments, quizzes, class attendance and participation.
- **Make-up Exams** –  
Make-up exams will be scheduled by appointment. Make-up exams will only be given for students who notify me in advance of anticipated absence on exam day or for students who provide documentation detailing the reason for absence by the beginning of the next class session.
- **Academic Honesty** –  
This course will be conducted pursuant to the University rules regarding academic honesty which can be read at the following web address:  
<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>
- **Disabled Student Policy** –  
Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Please refer to the following website for additional information:  
<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>
- **Services for Disabled Students** - <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>
- **Attendance Policy** –  
Attendance will be recorded pursuant to University policy. More than two absences will result in failure of the course. This rule applies to all absences, excused and unexcused. 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 in automatic failure of the course.
- **Religious Holiday Policy** - see the following website:  
<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>