

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

Instructor: Natalia D. Tapia, J.D., M.S.
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Class hours: 6:00 – 10:00 pm Tuesday & Thursday
Classroom: A 115
Office Hours: 10:30am – 12:00pm Tuesday & Thursday or by appointment

Textbooks:

A current copy of the *Texas Penal Code*.

Gardner, T. J. & Anderson, T. M. (2005). *Criminal Law*, Tenth Edition. Belmont: Thomson & Wadsworth.

Course Description:

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

Course 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's analytical and abstract thinking skills.

Attendance Policy:

Students are required to attend each class session, complete reading assignments and contribute to class discussion. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. More than four hours (one class session) of excused or unexcused absences will result in the reduction of 10 points on the student's final grade. Students who attend all classes will be benefited by a curve on their final grade.

Grading Policy:

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Total	100%

Final grade will be based upon the following scale:

90 – 100 points	A
80 – 89 points	B
70 – 79 points	C
60 – 69 points	D
59 points or less	F

Make-up exams:

No make-up exams will be given except for the most serious circumstances, with prior approval, and by providing proper documentation regarding those circumstances. In this situation, make-up exams will be scheduled for August 5th (two days before the final exam).

Course Calendar:

July 8	Introduction Criminal Law: Purposes, Scope, and Sources	Gardner & Anderson: Ch. 1 Texas Penal Code: Ch. 1
July 10	Essential Elements of a Crime Criminal Liability	Gardner & Anderson: Ch. 2 & 3 Texas Penal Code: Ch. 6
July 15	Criminal Responsibility and the Capacity to Commit a Crime The Law Governing the Use of Force	Gardner & Anderson Ch. 4 & 5 Texas Penal Code: Ch. 7

July 17	Defenses and Justifications Criminal Punishment	Gardner & Anderson: Ch. 6 & 7 Texas Penal Code: Ch. 8, 9 & 12
July 22	MIDTERM Free Speech, Street Crimes, and the Bill of Rights	Gardner & Anderson: Ch. 9 Texas Penal Code: Ch. 42, 46
July 24	Crimes Against the Person: Homicide Assault, Battery, and Other Crimes Against the Person	Gardner & Anderson: Ch. 10 & 11 Texas Penal Code: Ch. 19, 20, 22 & 25
July 29	Sexual Assault, Rape, Prostitution, and Related Sex Crimes Crimes Against Property: Theft	Gardner & Anderson: Ch. 12 & 13 Texas Penal Code: Ch. 21 & 43; 31
July 31	Robbery and Burglary White Collar Crime, Cyber Crime, and Commercial Crime	Gardner & Anderson: Ch. 14 & 15 Texas Penal Code: Ch. 29 & 30; 28, 32, 33 & 35 A
August 5	Drug Abuse and Alcohol-Related Crimes Organized Crime and Gangs	Gardner & Anderson: Ch. 16 & 18 Texas Penal Code: Ch. 49 & 71
August 7	FINAL EXAM	

Academic Honesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Any student engaged in academic dishonesty in this class will receive an “F” for the semester. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty

Disabled Student Policy:

Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor on 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: Service for Disabled Students

www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html

Religious Holidays:

A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holiday shall present to the instructor a written statement concerning this. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignment and/or examinations are to be completed. Please refer to SHSU Student Guidelines for additional information:

www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holiday

Tobacco Products:

There will be no use of tobacco products allowed in the classroom at any time. Violators of this policy will be warned one time; the second instance of use will result in dismissal from the class.

Electronic Devices:

Please make sure to turn off any electronic communication devices during class sessions. Violators of this policy will be warned one time; the second instance of use will result in dismissal from the class.