

CJ 264.04
Fundamentals of Criminal Law
Spring 2008

Professor: Kelly T. Weeks, J.D.
Board Certified-Criminal Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization
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Class Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:00-11:50 a.m.
Classroom: C104
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 2:00-4:00p.m. and Tuesday 9:00-12:00 p.m. and
1:00 to 3:00 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 crime, 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 5 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 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 six unexcused absences. **Students missing more than six unexcused absences will have their final grade lowered 10 points for each unexcused absence after the 6th 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

DATE:	ASSIGNED READINGS:	ISSUES OF DISCUSSION:
January 16	See powerpoint	Introduction to Class; Introduction to Law
January 18	See powerpoint	Introduction to Law and Basic Principles of Criminal Law
January 21	Holiday	
January 23	See powerpoint	Basic Principles of Criminal Law
January 25	See powerpoint	The Criminal Process
January 28	See Powerpoint	The Criminal Process
January 30	TPC 46.01-.15	Offenses involving weapons
February 1	TPC 46.01-.15	Offenses involving weapons
February 4	TPC Chapter 6 & 7	Culpability generally and Criminal responsibility for conduct of another
February 6	TPC Chapter 6 & 7	Culpability generally and Criminal responsibility for conduct of another
February 8	TPC Chapter 12 , CCP Article 12 & Chapter 13	Offense levels and Punishment and statute of limitations and venue
February 11	TPC Chapter 12 , CCP Article 12 & Chapter 13	Offense levels and Punishment and statute of limitations and venue & Review
February 13	Exam #1	
February 15	TPC Chapter 20,22, and 25 (non sex offenses)	Offenses against a Person
February 18	TPC Chapter 20,22 and 25 (non sex offenses)	Offenses against a Person
February 20	TPC Chapter 20,22 and 25 (non sex offenses)	Offenses against a Person
February 22	TPC Chapter 21, TPC sec. 22.011,Sec. 22.021, sec. 25.02,sec. 33.021, TPC Ch. 43	Sex Offenses

February 25	TPC Chapter 21, TPC sec. 22.011,Sec. 22.021, sec. 25.02,sec. 33.021, TPC Ch. 43	Sex Offenses
February 27	TPC Chapter 21, TPC sec. 22.011,Sec. 22.021, sec. 25.02,sec. 33.021, TPC Ch. 43	Sex Offenses
February 29	TPC Chapter 19	Homicide
March 3	TPC Chapter 19	Homicide
March 5	TPC Chapter 19	Homicide and review
March 7	Exam #2	
March 10-14	Spring Break	
March 17	TPC Chapters 28-35	Offenses against property
March 19	TPC Chapters 28-35	Offenses against property
March 21	Good Friday	
March 24	TPC Chapters 28-35	Offenses against property
March 26	TPC Chapter 49	Intoxication offenses
March 28	TPC Chapter 49	Intoxication offenses
March 31	TPC Chapter 49	Intoxication offenses
April 2	Controlled Substances Act 481-485	Drug offenses
April 4	Controlled Substances Act 481-485	Drug offenses
April 7	Controlled Substances Act 481-485	Drug offenses
April 9	TPC Chapter 38	Obstructing government operations
April 11	TPC Chapter 38	Obstructing government operations
April 14	TPC Chapter 38	Obstructing government operations
April 16		review
April 18	Exam #3	
April 21	TPC sec. 39.03, sec. 39.04,sec. 22.11, sec. 46.10, sec. 38.11,sec. 38.111	Prison Crimes
April 23	TPC sec. 39.03, sec. 39.04,sec. 22.11, sec. 46.10, sec. 38.11,sec. 38.111 &TPC Chapter 15 & 16	Prison Crimes and Inchoate offenses
April 25	TPC Chapter 15 & 16	Inchoate offenses

April 28	TPC Chapter 8 & 9	Defenses
April 30	TPC Chapter 8 & 9	Defenses & Justifications
May 2	TPC Chapter 8 & 9	Justifications
May 5	TPC Chapter 8 & 9	Justifications
May 7		Review
May 14 11:00- 1:00	Final Exam	

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