



**DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE &
CRIMINOLOGY**

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

Georgia State University

Phone: 404-413-1020

Web: cj.gsu.edu



**Criminal Law
CRJU 4780 (CRN: 92079)
Syllabus – Fall 2020**

Instructor: Cyntoria Johnson

Email: cjohnson5@gsu.edu

Virtual Office Hours: Email for Appointment

WebEx Meeting Room: <https://gsumeetings.webex.com/meet/cjohnson5>

Class Day/Time: Asynchronous (100% online)

Class Location: iCollege Learning System

Course Description: This course is designed to give students an introduction to substantive criminal law. The course will introduce students to the legal idea of criminal responsibility and the concepts of required state of mind (*mens rea*) and prohibited conduct (*actus reus*). The course will discuss the substantive content, structure, and sources of major crimes against persons and property, and provide a comprehensive evaluation of various legal defenses to criminal liability under both common law (case law) and statutory law (legislative law) approaches. The course also addresses the impact of the Model Penal Code on the development of contemporary criminal law.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students should demonstrate abilities to:

- List the steps in a typical criminal case from arrest to appeal proceedings;
- Identify the basic elements of crimes and the nature of criminal responsibility;
- Describe constitutional rights and potential defenses that may be asserted by the accused;
- Examine distinctions in state/federal statutes, common law, and the Model Penal Code;
- Analyze public policy implications for historical and contemporary criminal laws; and
- Apply knowledge of legal principles to hypothetical and real-world situations.

Course Readings: You do not have to purchase a traditional textbook for this course. Readings will be assigned from free, open education resource (OER) materials (see links on iCollege). The primary text will be [Introduction to Criminal Law](#) by Lisa M. Storm. Supplemental materials related to each topic will be posted on iCollege in the weekly modules.

Minimum Technical Requirements: This course is taught as a fully online asynchronous course. Students enrolled in this course must be able to:

- Access a broadband connection to the Internet. For info on help with device options and Internet access visit <https://cetl.gsu.edu/resources/resources-for-learning-remotely/>
- Navigate iCollege, GSU's Learning Management system. Check it regularly for content, deadlines, and announcements. If you experience problems with iCollege, it is your responsibility to contact GSU Information Systems & Technology to troubleshoot and find a solution.
- Create and submit assignments using Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, and PDF;

- Send and receive emails from your GSU student email account to the instructor at cjohnson5@gsu.edu; and
- Collaborate with others and present using programs such as WebEx, Zoom, Voicethread.

Course Format: The course content will be organized in weekly modules. All readings, links and assignments will be posted on iCollege on Mondays, and all work is due by the following Sunday at 11:59 pm in the appropriately labeled Discussion Thread or Assignment Dropbox folder. Be sure to double check your work using spell/grammar check, Turnitin.com and Grammarly.com before submitting. This is a 4000-level college course, and I expect clear and organized writing with correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and (when applicable) proper attribution to your sources, etc. All assignments must be submitted on iCollege by the deadlines posted within each weekly module. **NO LATE OR EMAILED WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

<u>Course Requirements:</u>	Your final grade in this course will be based on the following:	
	Discussion Posts	10%
	CALI Lessons	10%
	Quizzes	15%
	Criminal Law Project	15%
	Midterm Exam	25%
	Final Exam	25%

Participation/Engagement—Student engagement is vital to your successful completion of this online course. Students are expected to actively participate in this course and engage with the material throughout the semester. It is imperative that you access and read the announcements and assigned course materials so that you can engage meaningfully in the discussion threads. Please get in the habit of checking your GSU email and iCollege frequently. You are expected to act *professionally* in the online learning environment, which includes but is not limited to being prepared, participating in civilized and respectful discussions, actively taking notes and engaging with the material. Students will fairly consider the viewpoints of others and respectfully allow others to express their viewpoints in the discussions.

- ***Discussion Posts:*** Online discussions help foster a collaborative learning environment and provide opportunities for us to engage outside the typical classroom setting and consider different perspectives among your peers. Discussion threads will allow students to practice effective writing skills and enhance critical thinking. To earn full credit, each student must submit online discussion posts (an original post and a reply) to the substantive writing prompts that will be assigned throughout the semester (due Sundays 11:59 pm). The first post should be your own meaningful and relevant comment on the question presented (min 100 words). The second post should be a thoughtful response to at least one other student's post (min 50 words). All posts should be substantive in content, responsive to the writing prompts, thoughtful and well-written. See iCollege for detailed instructions and the weekly question prompts.

CALI Lessons—CALI Lessons are interactive tutorials designed to help law students improve their knowledge of legal concepts through a process of presenting a concept and then immediately testing them on it. Studies have shown that this is one of the most effective ways to learn and *retain* knowledge.” (From cali.org). Follow the instructions on

iCollege to register for CALI. Links to the assigned CALI Lessons can be found in each module for the various criminal law topics we will cover throughout the semester. To receive credit for this assignment, students must complete the assigned CALI Lessons and upload their “Certificate of Completion” (as a PDF file) to iCollege by the deadline (Sundays by 11:59 pm).

Criminal Law Project—Students will select a legal topic, criminal law or an actual criminal case that they wish to examine. You will conduct independent research on the factual and procedural background of the case as well as the criminal law issues presented. Students will collaborate in groups to create a multimedia presentation on their criminal law/case the end of the semester. See iCollege for detailed instructions and deadlines.

Quizzes—Reading the course materials and preparing independently for class are essential for your successful completion of this online course. To that end, there will be short, timed quizzes given online each week (10 minutes each) covering content from each module. Quizzes must be completed on iCollege by Sundays 11:59 pm.

- **Syllabus Quiz/No Show Policy:** Your very first quiz of the semester is posted on iCollege in the “Getting Started” module and covers the syllabus. Since this is a fully online course, students must complete the syllabus quiz by the posted deadline. Failure to complete the quiz during Week One will result in being dropped from the course for no-show.

Exams—There will be two examinations in this course administered online through iCollege. The midterm exam will cover material from the first half of the course) and final exams. Exams will cover the assigned course content and will consist of some combination of multiple choice, true-false, and/or short essay questions.

- The Midterm Exam will be on **Sunday, October 11, 2020.**
- The Final Exam will be on **Sunday, December 6, 2020.**

Make-up Exam Policy: Online exams are unique in that they do not require your physical presence in the classroom setting. Every effort should be made to take scheduled exams as scheduled. Make-up exams are only allowed during the semester in the most exceptional, unavoidable circumstances (excused absences only) by making prior arrangements directly with the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to assign a "zero" exam grade without giving a make-up exam if you fail to contact me by the beginning of your class period on the exam date with a legitimate, documented, and verifiable reason for the absence. If an exam is missed due to an illness, I require a written doctor's excuse before I allow you to take a make-up exam. Documentation must be submitted to me within 24 hours of the absence, and all make-up exams will be scheduled at the instructor's convenience.

Exam Conflicts: Students are not required to take clustered exams during the final exam period (more than two examinations within one 24-hour period). If you have a clustered exam situation, you must inform me in writing at least 14 days before the beginning of the final exam period so that we can make special arrangements for you to take the final exam. No special arrangements will be made if you fail to submit a timely conflict letter.

Grade Adjustments/Scale: For your own privacy protection, I do not discuss grades over the phone. You are welcome to come during office hours or make an appointment to discuss your performance in the course. If you believe there is an error in your grade, you should discuss the situation with me first. With the exception of correcting an arithmetic error, grades will NOT be adjusted. The following grading scale will apply to your overall grade:

A+ = 97 – 100	B+ = 87 – 89	C+ = 77 – 79	D = 60 – 69
A = 93 – 96	B = 83 – 86	C = 73 – 76	F = 59 and below
A- = 90 – 92	B- = 80 – 82	C- = 70 – 72	

My due date to turn in grades is **Dec 17**. Grades are available to students via PAWS on **Dec 18**.

Email Etiquette: I expect professional decorum in the online learning environment as well as your communications via email. Please use correct English, appropriate punctuation, and overall professionalism when corresponding with me via email. I teach several courses each semester, so please include your course name (CRJU 4780) in the subject line of every email so that I know who you are and can respond accordingly. Please double-check the syllabus and iCollege announcements for the answer to your question **prior to** emailing me. If you would like a response from me, please email me directly at cjohnson5@gsu.edu. DO NOT use the email feature on iCollege, and DO NOT use my old student email address. I will not respond to these. Please allow at least 24 to 48 hours of response time before sending multiple emails. I will not respond to emails requesting information that is already provided on the syllabus and/or posted on iCollege.

Privacy Policy: No one is permitted to make any recordings of the course material (whether audio, video, or otherwise), including lectures, PowerPoint presentations, etc. You may not record, take pictures or transmit any part of this course by any means.

Disabilities: Any student with a documented learning disability should notify the instructor on the first day of class so that appropriate steps may be taken to ensure a quality learning experience. Please provide your documentation from the Office of Disability Services so that we can collaborate on a plan for your reasonable accommodations for the semester.

University and Criminal Justice Departmental Policies: You should familiarize yourself with Georgia State University's Undergraduate Catalog and the policies of the Department of Criminal Justice. We will adhere to the guidelines stated therein. For your convenience, some of these policies and procedures are featured on the last page of this syllabus.

Academic Dishonesty: Students must adhere to the Georgia State University Code of Conduct, the Student Handbook, and the Policy on Academic Honesty. You are expected to know and abide by these policies. Please take some time to refresh yourself with these rules on academic integrity and ethics. Students who engage in academic dishonesty and violate these policies will receive an automatic F in the course and will be subject to disciplinary penalties imposed by the University.

<https://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/>

<https://studenthandbook.gsu.edu/>

<https://deanofstudents.gsu.edu/faculty-staff-resources/academic-honesty/>

SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED READINGS & ACTIVITIES ¹		
BEGIN DATE (9 am)	DUE DATE (11:59 pm)	MODULE TOPICS (See iCollege for detailed instructions on assignments for each module)
Mon, Aug 24	Wed, Aug 26	“Getting Started” Module Syllabus Quiz and “Introduce Yourself” Discussion (post a video response for this activity)
Mon, Aug 24	Sun, Aug 30	Module 1: Introduction to Criminal Law
Mon, Aug 31	Sun, Sept 6	Module 2: Defining Criminal Conduct
Mon, Sept 7		LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
Mon, Sept 7	Sun, Sept 13	Module 3: Parties to Crimes
Mon, Sept 14	Sun, Sept 20	Module 4: Inchoate Crimes (Attempt, Solicitation, and Conspiracy)
Mon, Sept 21	Sun, Sept 27	Module 5: Criminal Defenses
Mon, Sept 28	Sun, Oct 4	Module 6: Criminal Homicide
Mon, Oct 5	Sun, Oct 11	Midterm Exam Review Week (See iCollege for assignments and WebEx Review Session)
Sunday, Oct 11		MIDTERM EXAM
Tues, Oct 13		SEMESTER MIDPOINT - LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW
Mon, Oct 12	Sun, Oct 18	Module 7: Sexual Offenses and Other Crimes Against the Person
Mon, Oct 19	Sun, Oct 25	Module 8: Crimes Against Property & Habitation
Mon, Oct 26	Sun, Nov 1	Module 9: Crimes Against the Public (quality-of-life crimes and group-related offenses)
Mon, Nov 2	Sun, Nov 8	Module 10: Crimes Against Social Morality (vice crimes)
Mon, Nov 9	Sun, Nov 15	Module 11: Crimes Against the Government
Mon, Nov 16	Sun, Nov 22	Module 12: White Collar & Organized Crime
Sunday, Nov 22		CRIMINAL LAW PROJECTS DUE
Nov 23-29		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY BREAK
Mon, Nov 30	Sun, Dec 6	Final Exam Review Week (See iCollege for assignments and WebEx Review Session)
Sunday, Dec 6		FINAL EXAM

¹ This syllabus includes the proposed schedule in which we will cover the material in this course. I anticipate that we will closely follow this schedule throughout the semester. However, we may need to make adjustments to the syllabus as the semester progresses (e.g., shift reading assignments around, slow down to cover certain material in more detail, cancel a class, add a review session, or incorporate additional information as needed). Please be flexible and consider yourself on notice that we may need to make adjustments from time to time. Also, there will be commitments required of you outside the listed scheduled class times (e.g., criminal law project, extra handouts, current events/cases).

University and Criminal Justice Departmental Policies

1. **Disruptive Conduct:** Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policy on disruptive conduct as described in the online undergraduate and graduate Catalogs. Cell phones and pagers are considered disruptive and should be turned off before class.
2. **Academic Dishonesty:** In the event of academic dishonesty, policies stated in the GSU General Catalog will be followed. Cheating includes presenting another's work as your own, presenting previous work as work done in this semester, copying the work of another, etc. If you have any questions about whether an activity is cheating, refer to your student handbook or see the instructor. The instructor will determine the sanction for dishonest behavior. Academic Dishonesty may result in an F for the course and may result in suspension or expulsion from the College. For complete details on GSU's Policy on Academic Honesty, please refer to the online undergraduate and graduate catalogs.
3. **Disability Statement:** Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought. [Office of Disability Services is located in the Student Center, Suite 230].
4. **New W/WF Policy:** As of Fall 2006 semester, all undergraduate students are allowed to withdraw with a grade of W a maximum of six (6) times in their entire careers at Georgia State. Students who exceed the limit will automatically receive a grade of WF. (WFs count as Fs for GPA calculation purposes.) Withdrawals taken before Fall 2006 will not count against the limit and neither will hardship withdrawals, military withdrawals, withdrawals at other institutions, or withdrawals after the midpoint. (Withdrawals after the midpoint are automatically given a grade of WF.) Please note, the instructor of a course will not decide whether a student who withdraws before the midpoint receives a W or a WF. Instead, students with less than 6 withdrawals will automatically receive a W and students with 6 or more withdrawals will automatically receive a WF.
5. **Plus/Minus Grading Policy:** The Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology voted to use plus/minus grading in criminal justice courses. The specific grading scale is set by the instructor.
6. **Online Course Evaluations:** Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.
7. **AYS Career Services and Student Life Office:** The Andrew Young School provides career support & leadership development services to all current AYS students and alumni. Students are invited to attend our career events and workshops, and are encouraged to schedule career counseling appointments with University Career Services in the Student Center. Graduate students can make individualized career counseling appointments with Ms. Colleen Perry, the Director of AYS Career Services office. These efforts with Career Services can help students with resume writing, interviewing, job searching, internship development, and networking. To see what career panels, career fairs, and events are available this semester, please visit: <https://www.schedulicity.com/Scheduling/Default.aspx?business=AYC75T#/services> . The office also supports all AYS student clubs and organizations – so read about the various groups within the college, and join one today: <http://career.aysps.gsu.edu/organizations> . Make the most of your education by utilizing these great resources. *The AYS Career Services & Student Life office is located on the ground floor of the Andrew Young Building, in room G47-51.*