**Syllabus: Fall 2019**

Northern Virginia Community College

Course Name: Criminal Law, Evidence and Procedures I

Course Number: ADJ 211

Section Number: 001A (#47498)

Meeting Times: Monday 9:30am – 12:20pm

Meeting Location: Bisdorf/AA-442

Instructor Name: **Tim Dickinson**

Telephone Number: **703-933-8083**

E-mail Address: tdickinson@nvcc.edu

[http://blogs.nvcc.edu/tdickinson/](https://mail.nvcc.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=e4af37c7e13742b589970494af58d20f&URL=http%3a%2f%2fblogs.nvcc.edu%2ftdickinson%2f)

**This syllabus is a guide. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as needed.**

**Course Materials:**

**Brody, David: Acker, James R. 2015. Criminal Law. Third Edition. Burlington, Ma: Jones & Bartlett.Third Edition. Burlington, Ma.**

**Course Description**

Teaches the elements of proof for major and common law crimes and the legal classification of offenses. Studies the kinds, degrees and admissibility of evidence and its presentation in criminal proceedings with emphasis on legal guidelines for methods and techniques of evidence acquisition. Surveys the procedural requirements from arrest to final disposition in the various American court systems with focus on the Virginia jurisdiction. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an introduction to the substantive criminal law, history, philosophy, definitions and elements of crimes, and application of the law.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

a) understand the sources of criminal law in America and elements of various criminal offenses. b) assess basic legal defenses for specific crimes. c) describe the collection, identification, preservation, and introduction of evidence.

**Major Topics to Be Included**

a) define key elements of criminal law including crimes against property, persons, and public order crime b) describe standards of proof needed in court c) discuss jurisdictional issues with the courts d) describe arrest procedures e) describe elements of crime f) explain effective testimony techniques g) discuss privileged communications h) examine defense strategies i) explain the capacity and competency to commit crime and legal defenses j) discuss constitutional law and the law origins k) examine procedural and substantive law l) review various statutory law cases and the rationale for the court rulings.

**Course Requirements and Grading (Tentative)**

* Four Examinations (300 points total – lowest text grade dropped))
* Written Assignment (50- 100 points)
* Attendance (96 points)
* Extra Credit – Complete Course Evaluation (10 points)
* **If a class cancelled, check Blackboard for assignment/grading information.**

**Grading Scale**

100%-90% - A 69%-60% - D

89%-80 – B Below 60 - F

79%-70% - C

**Description of Course Requirements**

**Examinations**

There will be four examinations. **I will drop the lowest test grade.** Examinations may consist of true/false, multiple choice, fill-in the blank and essay questions. There will be a maximum of 50 questions per examination and the examination will cover materials presented during lectures and from the textbook. **Study guides will be provided.**

There will be absolutely no make–up or early exams. Failure to take the exam when scheduled will result in the grade of “0” for the missed exam. That missed exam will constitute the “dropped” exam.

***There will be no opportunity for extra credit assignments so it is important that you satisfy the stated requirements.***

**Attendance**

Attendance for each class is required. However, I will “give” each student one absence without penalty. Ninety-six points ofyour final grade is based on your attendance and participation in the class. Each missed class will result in a six (6) point deduction from the attendance grade (96 points).

Attendance for each class is required. I take attendance at the beginning and end of each class. Each half of class is worth 3 points. If you are late, or leave early you will lose 3 points. I will make a determination for any attendance/participation points earned each class.

Read the textbook before class, and be prepared to ask and answer questions. If you attend class (don’t miss more than 2 classes) and participate, there is good chance the 89 (B) will become a 90 (A).

**Any student not attending the first 3 classes will be dropped from the course by the instructor. Any student who misses more than 5 classes may be dropped by the instructor. Please notify the instructor with any special circumstances.**

**Policies and Procedures**

**Late Assignments – I will deduct 10 points each day the assignment is late.**

Classroom civility – students are expected to respect each other and the instructor. Students should not disrupt class by arriving late, leaving early and/or by unnecessary talking or use of electronic devices. Students may be asked to leave class for any disruptions.

**Should you choose to bring a laptop/tablet/smart phone to class it must only be used for course activities.**

When in class **please do not sleep**, write notes to each other, read newspapers, do homework for any class, listen to music, or engage in activity that may disturb others.

*Please turn your phone on vibrate!!*

**Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. Cheating includes dishonesty of any kind on tests or assignments. Plagiarism includes the failure to give credit to another’s work. Giving and taking unauthorized help on tests or assignments are both considered cheating. NOVA and I regard these as serious offenses. The minimum sanction for such behavior is an F on the assignment; the maximum sanction is dismissal from college. You may read the full policy on academic dishonesty in the Student Handbook.

**Fire/Emergency Evacuation Procedures**: The evacuation route is located on the wall next to the classroom door. Please familiarize yourself with this route.

**Inclement Weather and Other Closing Information**: Please check NOVA’s website (www.nvcc.edu) for information about weather closings and if class is cancelled, check Blackboard for assignment information. Students are strongly encouraged to sign up for NOVA Alert: <https://alert.nvcc.edu/index.php?CCheck=1>.

Please check Blackboard for course continuation instructions for longer term class cancellations (multiple classes). For example, a flood might close the building for the remainder of the semester and force us to move to a new location.

**Special Accommodations**: Any student who thinks that he or she might need an accommodation based on a disability should make an appointment to see a Counselor for Disability Services (Bisdorf Room 193). You can also call 703-933-1840. Additional information can be found here: <http://www.nvcc.edu/current-students/disability-services/index.html>.

**\* Students are urged to contact the instructor with any special circumstances.**

**Office Hours:**

**Room - Bisdorf #352**

Tuesday 1:00pm – 6:00pm

Wednesday 1:00pm – 6:00pm

**or see me before/ after class. Emails also work.**

**Class Schedule: Course of Study (Tenative)**  TOPIC /READINGS

August 19 Course Orientation

August 26 Intro. To Criminal Law Chapter 1

Sept. 2 **Labor Day – Holiday**

Sept. 9 Constitutional Limits Chapter 2

Sept. 16 General Elements Chapter 3

Sept. 23 Exam 1 (Chapters 1-3)

 Crimes Against Public Order Chapter 10

Sept. 30 Justification Defenses Chapter 4

Oct. 7 Guest Speaker

Oct. 14 **No Classes Non – Instructional Day**

Oct. 21 Excuse Defenses Chapter 5

 Written Assignment Distributed

Oct. 28 Exam 2 (Chapters 4,5,10)

 Other Crimes Against Person Chapter 8

Nov. 4 Homicide Chapter 6

Nov. 11 Rape and Sexual Assault Chapter 7

Nov. 18 Exam 3 (Chapters 6-8)

 Liability for Conduct of Another Chapter 11

Nov. 25 Property Crimes Chapter 9

 Written Assignments Due

Dec. 2 Crimes Against Public Order Chapter 10

Dec. 9 Inchoate Crimes Chapter 12

Dec. 16 Exam 4 (Chapters 9- 12)

**Important Dates F19**

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| **Parking enforcement on Student "B" Lots begins at 6:00 a.m. Students are not required to display a permit while parked in a "B" lot after 3:45 p.m. on weekdays or anytime on weekends.** | **September 6** |
| **Last day to apply for Fall graduation.**[**\***](https://www.nvcc.edu/calendars/academic/fall19.html#note1) | **October 1** |
| **Second period to use excess (undisbursed) financial aid at the Bookstore.** | **October 2 - 25** |
| **Non-instructional day/no classes. College open.** | **October 14-15** |
| **No Classes. College closes at noon.** | **November 27** |
| **Thanksgiving Holiday** | **November 28-December 1** |
| [**Final Exam Schedule**](https://www.nvcc.edu/calendars/academic/fall19-exam-schedule.pdf) | **December 10-16** |
| **16-Week Session** |
| **Last day add name to wait lists** | **August 6** |
| **Classes begin** | **August 19** |
| **Last day to drop with a tuition refund (Census)**[**\*\***](https://www.nvcc.edu/calendars/academic/fall19.html#note2) | **September 5** |
| **Last day to withdraw without grade penalty**[**\*\*\***](https://www.nvcc.edu/calendars/academic/fall19.html#note3) | **October 29** |
| **Examinations end** | **December 16** |

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