



WILCO AREA CAREER CENTER

LENF 103 Criminal Law

Spring 2027

Instructor: Teresa Fisher.
Contact Phone: (815) 838-6941 ext 1011
Office Hours: M-F 2:30pm - 3:00pm
Email: tfisher@wilcoacc.org

Mon/Tue/Wed/Thur/Fri
Session One: 7:50 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.
Session Two: 9:55 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.
Session Three: 12:20 p.m. – 2:26 p.m.

Course Description and Objectives

Providing a current view that prompts students to read and analyze, ***Contemporary Criminal Law, 6th Edition*** combines the concepts taught in undergraduate criminal law courses with thought-provoking cases and engaging learning tools. Covering emerging legal topics including constitutional rights, consent, arson, identity theft, and hate crimes all applied through real life examples that students recognize and connect to. Author **Matthew Lippman** clearly defines and explains criminal law and defenses as well as provides cases and discussion questions to stimulate critical thinking and in-class discussion. Additionally, readers are challenged to interact with the text through pedagogical features, giving their decisions based on factual cases and analysis of the complex legal system.

Credit Hours: 3

Method of Instruction

- Lecture/Demonstrations

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- Lab/Practicals
- Group Projects
- Individual Assignments

Welcome:

You have registered for an exciting approach to the study of Criminal Law. Assigned readings are enhanced by Internet assignments that will take you to many interesting and unique places on the World Wide Web. This class is designed for disciplined, self-motivated, independent learners. Although we will be moving through the semester as a class, there are times during the semester that you will be studying on your own or in small groups. However, at no time should you feel alone. As your instructors, we will be available throughout the semester to answer questions or to discuss any of the assigned material. We will be as close as your phone or computer and as accessible as a call or an e-mail message. What we especially welcome are those questions that you may feel are too “dumb” to ask. They are often the most insightful.

Diversity:

As your instructor, it is my intent that students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course and that the diversity which students bring to this class be viewed and used as both a resource and a strength. It is also my intent to assign materials and plan learning activities that are respectful of diversity, be it gender, race, socioeconomic status, culture, linguistic background, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, physical ability, perspective or any other such characteristic. Any suggestions for improving the value of diversity for you personally or for other students or student groups in this course are encouraged and appreciated.

Learning Platforms

- Google Classroom. Students must log into Google with their @wilcoacc.org ID [Classroom.Google.com](https://classroom.google.com)
- All assignments, quizzes, and exams will appear in Google Classroom.

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Course Schedule

(Subject to change)

Week	Date	Topics	Required readings	
Week 1		The Nature, Purpose, and Function of Criminal Law	Chapter 1	Intro Sources of Criminal Law General Limitations Jurisdiction Common Law Quiz #1
Week 2		Constitutional Limitations	Chapter 2	Legality Bill of Attainder Ex Post Facto Void for Vagueness Equal Protection of the law Privacy Mock Trial Roles Quiz #2

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Week 3		Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 3	Rights: Victim and Defendant 8th Amendment Equal Protection Clause Mock Trial Prep Quiz 3
Week 4		EXAM 1 Actus Reus	Chapter 4	Actus Reus Exam 1
Week 5		<i>Mens Rea</i> , Concurrence, and Causation	Chapter 5	Mens Rea Concurrence Causation Mock Trial/ Deliberation
Week 6		Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability	Chapter 6	Vicarious Liability Accessory Natural and probable consequence doctrine
Week 7		Attempt, Conspiracy, and Solicitation	Chapter 7	Attempt Conspiracy Solicitation
Week 8		Justifications & Excuses	Chapters 8 and 9	Excuses and Justifications Exam 2
Week 9		Homicide	Chapter 10	Crimes against Persons
Week 10		Criminal Sexual Conduct, Assault and	Chapter 11	Sex Crime Assault Battery

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		Battery, Kidnapping, and False Imprisonment		Kidnapping
Week 11		Crimes against Persons		Field Trip to the court house
Week 12		Burglary, Trespass, Arson, and Mischief	Chapter 12	Burglary Trespass Arson
Week 13		Crimes Against Property & White-Collar Crime	Chapters 13 and 14	Antitrust Violations Money Laundering Fraud
Week 14		Crimes Against Public Order and Morality	Chapter 15	Prostitution
Week 15		Crimes Against the State	Chapter 16	
Week 16		Final Exam		

Book, Supplies, and Supplementary Materials

Required Text

Lippman, M. 2018. *Contemporary Criminal Law, 6e*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Student Study Site: edge.sagepub.com/lippmancc15e

- **Required Uniform:** Business Casual Dress. Students must be dressed appropriately including while in virtual classrooms
- **Google Classroom:** Technology will be integrated into this class. Log-in directions will be provided in class. You are responsible for checking this site daily as course information will be added to the site.

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- **Supplies Required:** Computer, iPad, or Chromebook, paper, black pen, pencil, earbuds/headphones, mask - if present in the classroom, and gloves if conducting physical activities with others.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate an ability to think critically and analytically.
2. Students will receive a basic understanding of the Criminal Justice field which will provide them a solid foundation and understanding of the many different aspects of crime and criminality. Additionally, this will provide the students with more information to utilize when analyzing what area of Criminal Justice that they will be interested in pursuing as a career.

Assessment of Learning

Formative assignments, quizzes, and final exams
Periodic summative discussion questions

Course Objectives

Chapter 1 - The Nature, Purpose, and Function of Criminal Law

- L01: Discuss the nature, purpose, and function of criminal law
L02: List the Sources of Criminal Law
L03: Differentiate State Criminal Codes and Federal Statutes

Chapter 2 - Constitutional Limitations

- L01: Compare and Contrast constitutional protections
L02: Summarize due process
L03: Explain Ex Post Facto Laws

Chapter 3 - Punishment and Sentencing

- L01: List the four approaches to Sentencing
L02: Discuss Sentencing Guidelines
L03: Explain plea bargaining and the federal rules
L04: Outline the Victims of Crimes Act

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- L05: Explain the 8th Amendment to the Constitution
- L06: Delineate the different methods of punishment
- L07: Explain the legal test for determining whether a law that is neutral face a violation of the Equal Protection Clause

Chapter 4 - Actus Reus

- L01: Explain why individuals are not punished for their thoughts
- L02: Delineate what constitutes a voluntary act and an involuntary act
- L03: Explain status offenses and cruel and unusual punishment
- L04: Delineate the elements required to establish actus rea (a guilty act).
- L05: Explain the differences between American and European rules of omission
- L06: List and define actual and constructive possession

Chapter Five - *Mens Rea*, Concurrence, and Causation

- L01: Delineate the elements and types of mens rea
- L02: Discuss the different ways of proving mens rea
- L03: Explain the difference between purpose and knowledge
- L04: Distinguish recklessness from negligence
- L05: Compare and contrast criminal intent and crimes requiring strict liability
- L06: Explain willful blindness
- L07: Indicate the importance of the principle of concurrence
- L08: Explain both cause in fact and the legal or proximate cause of an individual's criminal act

Chapter 6 - Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability

- L01: List the four categories of common law parties
- L02: Define and illustrate common law accomplices and accessories
- L03: Describe the actus reus needed for an accomplice and define the mere presence rule
- L04: Discuss mens rea of accomplice liability
- L05: Explain the requirements for an individual to be considered an accessory after the fact.
- L06: Distinguish accomplice liability, strict liability, and vicarious liability.
- L07: Clarify the concepts of constitutional liability for parents strictly liable and vicariously liable for the criminal acts of their children

Chapter 7 - Attempt, Conspiracy, and Solicitation

- L01: Outline mens rea and actus reus inchoate crimes
- L02: Distinguish the three categories of inchoate crimes
- L03: Compare the subjective and objective approaches to criminal attempts

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- L04: Compare the Model Penal Code substantial step test and the test of physical proximity to attempts
- L05: Discuss and distinguish between legal and factual impossibility
- L06: Define the legal elements for the defense of abandonment for attempt
- L07: Explain the mens rea and actus reus of conspiracy
- L08: Explain the elements for conspiracy and the differences between bilateral and unilateral approaches to a conspiratorial agreement
- L09: Define solicitation while explaining the mens rea and actus reus for these crimes

Chapter 8 - Justifications & Excuses

- L01: Distinguish the affirmative defenses of justification and excuse
- L02: List the elements of self defense and explain the significance of reasonable belief, imminence, retreat, withdrawal, the castle doctrine, and defense to others
- L03: List the two approaches to intervention in defense of another
- L04: Outline the law pertaining the defense of the home and compare the laws pertaining the defense of habitation and self-defense
- L05: Outline the police use of deadly force and describe the defense of execution of public duties
- L06: Explain briefly the defense of resistance to and illegal arrest and distinguish this from the right to resist excessive force
- L07: Describe the elements of necessity defense
- L08: Describe justification defenses

Chapter 9 - Justifications & Excuse

- L01: Define and distinguish between the four major approaches to legal insanity
- L02: Discuss the purpose of the diminished capacity defense
- L03: Distinguish between the defense of voluntary and involuntary intoxication
- L04: Describe the common law defense of infancy
- L05: List the elements of the duress defense
- L06: Discuss the difference between the mistake of law and mistake of fact defenses
- L07: Explain the two tests for entrapment
- L08: Outline the debate over the insanity defense and various efforts for reform
- L09: Describe when a defendant under 18 should be prosecuted as an adult

Chapter 10 - Homicide

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- LO1: Discuss the historical origins and development into murder and manslaughter
- LO2: Differentiate first-degree murder from first-degree capital or aggravated homicide
- LO3: Contrast the difference between first and second degree murder
- LO4: Define depraved heart murder
- LO5: Describe why the law provides the offense of felony murder
- LO6: Discuss the legal standards for holding a corporation liable for first-degree murder and for involuntary manslaughter.
- LO7: Define manslaughter
- LO8: Discuss what acts constitute adequate provocation
- LO9: Contrast the differences between negligent homicide and misdemeanor manslaughter
- LO10: Discuss the purpose of the various grades of murder and dividing homicide into murder and manslaughter

Chapter 11 Criminal Sexual Conduct, Assault and Battery, Kidnapping, and False Imprisonment

- LO1: Define the original justification for the crime of rape
- LO2: Discuss date rape and the challenges to prosecutors
- LO3: List some of the barriers to establishing rape under the common law
- LO4: Describe the elements that distinguish a simple or second-degree rape from a aggravated or first degree rape
- LO5: Differentiate the differences between states and their actus reus of rape
- LO6: Describe the three approaches to the defense of mistake of fact in the mens rea of rape
- LO7: Discuss the purpose of rape shield laws
- LO8: Distinguish an assault from a battery
- LO9: Describe the elements required for a battery
- LO10: Discuss the two ways to commit an assault
- LO11: Distinguish the difference between the crime of stalking and a criminal assault
- LO12: Define kidnapping and the difference between false imprisonment and kidnapping

Chapter 12 - Burglary, Trespass, Arson, and Mischief

- LO1: Define burglary
- LO2: Compare and contrast the difference between burglary and trespass
- LO3: Explain arson and how modern statutes modified the common law crime of arson
- LO4: Explain the three types of acts that satisfy the actus reus of criminal mischief
- LO5: Compare and contrast arson and criminal mischief

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- L06: Describe the factors that aggravate burglary, arson, trespass, and criminal mischief
- L07: Discuss the justification for crimes of habitation

Chapter 13 Crimes Against Property & White-Collar Crime

- L01: Discuss how larceny developed in response to the growth of business and commerce
- L02: Distinguish between the requirements of larceny, embezzlement, and false pretenses

- L03: Describe the harm to society caused by identity theft
- L04: Differentiate between forgery and uttering
- L05: Distinguish between robbery and extortion
- L06: List the elements of carjacking
- L07: Discuss the use or threat of harm requirement in regard to robbery
- L08: List the factors that aggravate a property offense
- L09: Summarize property crimes

Chapter 15 - Crimes Against Public Order and Morality

- L01: List the specific acts constituting disorderly conduct
- L02: Describe the difference between disorderly conduct and riot
- L03: Distinguish between vagrancy and loitering
- L04: List the constitutional objections raised to vagrancy and loitering statutes
- L05: Describe the elements of the crime of prostitution
- L06: Explain the broken windows theory and the threat to civil liberties
- L07: Discuss the arguments that criminal law is overreaching
- L08: List the elements of the crime of prostitution
- L09: Describe the court definition of obscenity and discuss the legal standard for child pornography
- L010: Discuss animal cruelty and its criminal implication

Student Conduct

Students are expected to handle themselves professionally at all times. Each student is responsible for adhering to the student Code of Conduct as stated in the Student Handbook. Professionalism includes attending and being prepared for class, being engaged, being active participants, and adhering to all rules and regulations. Students can expect to be treated as college-level students, and as such, require standards of professionalism that are highly consistent with the "real world." Students must direct comments or responses to the class in a

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professional manner. Due to the controversial social issues covered, if you are offended by the comments of a fellow class member or instructor, please speak to the instructor personally to discuss the issue/problem. In many cases these instances result in valuable learning experiences.

Method of Instruction

The course makes use of lectures, classroom discussion, multimedia presentations, physical training, scenarios, homework assignments, and practical activities. Guest speakers will help to give students a broad idea of the variety of career opportunities that exist in the Criminal Justice field.

Evaluation and Grading

Your grade will be based on a cumulative point total. However, do not count solely on “points” as class participation and attendance will be imperative to maintain a solid grade in this class. Grades will be based on the following criteria. Further explanation of the assigned points or assignments will follow throughout the year.

Course Grading

Quantity	Points	Total Pts	Weight	Activity		Points Needed	Grade
3	100	300	20%	1. Unit Exams	90%+	1128	A
10	10	100	10%	2. Quizzes	80%+	1001	B
14	25	350	20%	3. Weekly Assignments	70%+	876	C
14	10	140	10%	4. Participation	60%+	750	D
14	10	70	5%	5. Discussion Questions	59%-	<=749	F
1	100	100	15%	6. Task Assessments/Mock Trial			
1	100	100	10%	7. Project			
1	100	100	10%	8. Final Exam			
Totals		1260	100%				

STUDENTS MUST MAINTAIN A GRADE OF “C” OR BETTER TO REMAIN ENROLLED AS A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENT TO RECEIVE COLLEGE CREDIT.

STUDENTS WITH GRADE OF “D” OR LOWER WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE COLLEGE PORTION OF THIS COURSE BY THE INSTRUCTOR.

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Class Participation

Student attendance – even virtual attendance – and participation in class discussion are important to the success of any class. Since this course is conducted online, active participation by all class members is essential for generating meaningful discussions related to course material.

Synchronous Learning Sessions in case of a remote day/snow day

Students are expected to be present in synchronous learning sessions per their home school assigned schedule. This will only occur if the school goes into lockdown mode. Times may vary. Please review your Google Classroom/google meet. You will join at the beginning of class and end when designated by your instructor.

Late Work

One letter grade will be deducted for all late work assignments turned in within one week. No late work will be accepted after 7 days late. Grades will be calculated cumulatively throughout the semester. The semester marks the end of the first grading period. Students start the second semester with a fresh start. At the end of the semester, letter grades are awarded as defined. Students are expected to participate in all activities including all synchronous learning sessions and physical training when in-person. Participation points will be deducted for non-participation. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration due to the pandemic. You must email your teacher if you would like to meet virtually. This request will be considered based on medically or other extenuating circumstances.

College Statement about grades of 'F' and withdrawal from class.

Students may withdraw from a course by processing an add/drop form during regular office hours through the JJC Registration and Records Office at Main Campus or Romeoville Campus, or by phone at 815-744-2200. Please note the withdrawal dates listed on your bill or student schedule. Every course has its own withdrawal date. Failure to withdraw properly may result in a failing grade of 'F' in the course. At any time prior to the deadline dates established. The instructor will withdraw a student from college credit because of poor attendance, poor

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academic performance or inappropriate academic behavior, such as, but not limited to, cheating or plagiarism.

College Documentation Styles

APA format is the adopted style for this class.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Six primary behaviors are expected;

1. Respect each other
2. Take responsibility for your actions
3. Be fair
4. Act with honesty
5. Trust each other
6. Demonstrate civility

Additionally, responsible students should do the following things.

- Read the course syllabus
- Demonstrate and respect divergent opinions
- Complete all assignments no later than the deadline. The deadline is the last possible time to submit it. Earlier is better.
- Get INVOLVED in class discussions and ask questions if you are unsure
- Notify the instructor EARLY in the course if you are having problems
- Read material before the due dates
- Manage your time so assignments are done EARLY
- Create index study cards, work with other students to have a study group

ALL written work must be typed.

NETIQUETTE: In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. The following tips for interacting online in e-mail and/or Discussion Board messages are adapted from guidelines originally compiled by Chuq Von Rospach and Gene Spafford.

*Remember that the person receiving your message is someone like you, someone who deserves and appreciates courtesy and respect.

*Be brief; succinct, thoughtful messages have the greatest impact.

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*Your messages reflect on YOU; take time to make sure that you are proud of their form and content.

*Use descriptive subject headings in e-mail messages.

*Think about your audience and the relevance of your messages.

*Be careful with humor and sarcasm; without the voice inflections and body language of face-to-face communication, Internet messages can be easily misinterpreted.

*When making follow-up comments, summarize the parts of the message to which you are responding.

*Avoid repeating what has already been said; needless repetition is ineffective communication.

*Cite appropriate references whenever using someone else's ideas, thoughts, or words.

CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS MATTER

Criminal justice areas of study may include very controversial and sometimes sensitive subject matter. In order to facilitate class discussion and debate, the instructor may use humor or play the "devil's advocate" in order to get students involved in discussion. Some of the possible subjects may be, but not limited to the following: death, nude bodies, autopsy photographs, homicide scenes, sexual assaults, rape, abortion, bestiality, pornography, flag burning, child pornography, sodomy, sex, racism, sexism, animal sacrifice, religion, police brutality, bullet wounds, and child abuse.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Even virtual attendance – and participation in class discussion are important to the success of any class. Since this course is conducted online, active participation by all class members is essential for generating meaningful discussions related to course material.

There are a minimum of three graded assignments per week, a weekly quiz or exam, and discussion questions.

QUIZZES (Required):

10 points each/10% of overall course grade. There is NO opportunity to make-up quizzes, and all will be taken online through the NGL site and are NOT timed.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Will be delivered through Google Classroom.

EXAMS:

There will be 3 exams throughout the semester that will cover different chapters throughout the semester. Each exam consists of multiple choice, true/false or essay questions. It will be available online. There will be no opportunity to make up the exams. The dates and times for the exams are posted on the course calendar, Google Classroom, and the NGL learning platform.

RESEARCH PROJECT:

All students are required to submit a research project on or before the due date. Details about the research project will be posted in the Google Classroom. 100 points/10 % of overall course grade.

FINAL EXAM

All students will be required to take a final exam. The final exam is 100 points/10% of overall course grade.

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Course Schedule

DUE TO COVID-19, student start dates vary based on their home school calendars. All students will begin in the Introduction and Orientation phase on the start date assigned by their home school.

Part One - The Nature, Purpose, and Function of Criminal Law

1/06/27-1/10/27 Chapter 1 The Nature, Purpose, and Function of Criminal Law

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussion Question (5pts each)	Daily	25
Ch1 Assignment (25) and Case Review Assignment (25)	01/17/25	50
Participation/ mock trial preparation	01/17/25	10
Quiz Chapter #1	01/17/25	10

Chapter 2 Constitutional Limitations

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 2 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	1/24/25	50
Participation/Mock Trial Preparation	1/24/25	10
Quiz Chapter #2	1/24/25	10

Chapter 3

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 3 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	1/31/25	50

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Participation/Mock Trial Preparation	1/31/25	10
Quiz Chapter #3	1/31/25	10

Chapter 4 Actus Reus

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 4 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	2/7//25	50
Participation Mock Trial	2/7/25	10
Exam #1	2/7/25	100

Chapter 5 Mens Rea, Concurrence, Causation

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 5 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	2/14/25	50
Participation Mock Trial	2/14/25	10
Quiz Chapter #5	2/14/25	10

Chapter 6 Problems and Solutions in Modern Policing

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 6 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	2/21/25	50
Participation Mock Trial	2/21/25	10

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Quiz Chapter #6	2/21/25	10
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Chapter 7 Parties to a Crime and Vicarious Liability

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 7 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	2/28/25	50
Participation/ Activities	2/28/25	10
Exam #2	2/28/25	100

Chapter 8 Justification

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 8 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	3/07/25	50
Participation/ Activities	3/7/25	10
Quiz Chapter #8	3/7/25	10

Chapter 9 Excuses

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 9 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	3/14/25	50
Participation/ Activities	3/14/25	10
Quiz Chapter #9	3/14/25	10

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Chapter 10 Homicide

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 10 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	3/21/25	50
Participation/ Activities	3/21/25	10
Quiz Chapter #10	3/21/25	10

Chapter 11 Criminal Sexual Conduct, Assault, and Battery, Kidnapping, and False Imprisonment

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 11 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	3/28/25	50
Participation/ Activities	3/28/25	10
Exam #3	3/28/25	100

SPRING BREAK April 1-April 9

Chapter 12 Burglary, Trespass, Arson, and Mischief

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 12 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	4/11/25	50
Participation/ Activities	4/11/25	10
Quiz Chapter #12	4/11/25	10

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Chapter 13 Crimes Against Property

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 13 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	4/18/25	50
Participation/ Activities	4/18/25	10
Quiz Chapter #13	4/18/25	10

Chapter 15 Crimes Against Public Order and Morality

	Due Date	Pts
Daily Discussions (5 pts)	Daily	25
Ch 15 Assignment and Case Review Assignment	4/25/25	50
Participation/ Research Paper	4/25/25	10

	Due Date	Pts
Research Project	TBA	100
Final Exam	TBA	100
Semester Ends	TBA	

DISCLAIMER: The course schedule and class procedures set forth in the syllabus are subject to modification in the event of extenuating circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in the online course site, and students will be given ample opportunity to adjust accordingly.

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