

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

## **General Syllabus**

### **LEGL 2723 Criminal Law**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: LEGL 1043 Introduction to Law or consent of department head

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

Familiarizes the student with fundamental principles and tasks that a paralegal would be required to know and undertake in a criminal law practice or public agency. Preparation of specific legal documents will be studied.

##### **B. Additional Information**

The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the basic concepts of criminal law and how they are applied. Emphasis would be placed on such matters as Constitutional rights, terminology, search and seizure, probable cause, and evidentiary matters for a criminal trial. This class will be based on text, discussion and examples. Grades will be based on assignments, class presentations, quizzes, and exams.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

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

1. Define the Constitutional protections as delineated in the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Amendments.
2. Distinguish between a felony and a misdemeanor.
3. List the elements for different criminal offenses.
4. List the stages in a criminal trial and the types of documentation which the defense counsel or prosecution will file.
5. List the requirements for a valid search or arrest warrant.
6. Draft a motion to suppress a confession, jury instructions, and a motion for a mistrial.
7. List the steps of an appeal and a habeas corpus proceeding.

8. Given a hypothetical criminal case, locate appropriate case and statutory law.
9. Given a hypothetical criminal case, identify defenses that the accused might put forth.

### **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

#### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will prepare legal documents routinely used in the area of criminal law. Students will use legal terminology associated with criminal law and the types of documentation needed for trial.

#### **Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills** - Students will identify the legal issues presented in a case or fact pattern as well as identify the rules that are relied upon to resolve the issues in criminal law. Students will apply those rules to the issue or fact pattern and reach a logical resolution premised on and grounded in those rules.

#### **Ethical Decision Making**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues inherent in the practice of criminal law.

### **III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Fundamentals of crime, law and punishment.
- B. The organization of the criminal justice system.
- C. The constitution and the criminal
- D. Elements of crimes.
- E. Inchoate offenses.
- F. Offenses against persons.
- G. Offenses against property.
- H. Offenses against public morality and order.
- I. Criminal defenses.
- J. Search and seizure.
- K. Pretrial process.
- L. Criminal trial.
- M. Sentencing and punishment.
- N. Appeal and post-conviction relief.