INSTRUCTOR:  Karu Hangawatte, LL.B., Ph.D.
OFFICE:  GUA 5120
PHONE:  895-0243
OFFICE HOURS:  TTh 11:30am-12:45pm or by appointment
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Course Objectives:  The objectives of this course are to introduce the student to the principles of substantive criminal law. The student will learn to appreciate the criminal law as a method of social control, the legal requirements necessary to commit a crime, the justifications and excuses available to one accused of a crime, and the legal definitions of selected major crimes. In addition, the student will develop some skills for reading and understanding criminal law cases.

Class Participation:  Criminal law is a fascinating and complex subject to study. Discussion and debate form the heart of learning to understand the law. Therefore, student participation in class discussions is essential. Class lectures, reading assignments, newspaper and magazine articles all provide a basis for a discussion of the criminal law.

Readings and Examinations:  There will be three scheduled examinations during the semester. These examinations will consist of true/false, multiple-choice and matching questions. Following is the reading and exam schedule.

*EXAM #1 - CHAPTERS 1, 2, 3 & 4 Thursday, February 18th (tentative)

*EXAM #2 - CHAPTERS 5, 6, 7 & 8 Thursday, March 25th (tentative)

EXAM #3- CHAPTERS 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 Thursday, May 6th at 8am (fixed)

* DATES FOR EXAMINATIONS #1 & #2 ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. If any of these exams is rescheduled I will notify you one week ahead of the date of the exam.

1. Make-up within three (3) class days. The student must offer a reasonable excuse for failure to take the exam at the assigned time. The excuse must be satisfactory to me.

2. No early make-up exams will be given.
FINAL EXAMINATION DATE: Thursday, May 6th at 8am.

EXTRA CREDIT WORK: None. However, students who attend class regularly will be eligible for the benefit of a curve that I may adopt at the end of the semester.

GUEST SPEAKERS: There may be a number of guest speakers invited to speak to the class. These speakers will represent different components of the justice system that are closely tied to the criminal law. They will involve police officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges. Maximum attendance is expected for these speakers because they are very busy individuals and it takes approximately two hours of their time to make their presentation to the class. Questions will be asked on the examinations about the material they presented.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Academic Misconduct – “Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.”

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: “Using the words or ideas of another, from the internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.” See the “Student Academic Misconduct Policy” (approved December 9, 2005, located at <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>).

Classroom Policies / Rules – It is a faculty member's discretion and prerogative to determine what is and is not acceptable behavior in his or her classroom (i.e., late arrival, wearing hats). Also, classroom occupants are at the discretion of the instructor (per UNLV General Counsel). Please refer to the Student Conduct Code, Sections III.K. and L. relating to “disrupting” the classroom and/or university operations. See <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/student.html>.

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Disability Resource Center (DRC) –

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. The DRC strongly encourages faculty to provide accommodations only if and when they are in receipt of said plan. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

Missed Class(es) / Student – As a general rule, a student missing a class or laboratory assignment because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. Students must notify the instructor of anticipated absences by the last day of late registration, January 22, 2007, to be assured of this
opportunity. Faculty may give students an additional week, but are encouraged to set a clear deadline. NOTE: Students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity shall also have the opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).