CRJ 130 CRIMINAL LAW SECTION 002  
TTh 8:30-9:45 am  
BEH 218  
Fall 2009

INSTRUCTOR:  Karu Hangawatte  
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TEXT:  Joel Samaha, Criminal Law, 9th Edition,  

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:  The 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, October 1st
(tentative)

*EXAM #2 - CHAPTERS 5, 6, 7 & 8  Thursday, November 05th
(tentative)

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

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.

* 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.
FINAL EXAMINATION DATE: Thursday, December 13th 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 will 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.

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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).