Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS

PLAW 230
CRIMINAL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce the general principles, sources, and purpose of criminal law, including the following doctrinal issues that apply to crimes in general: the act requirement, the mens rea requirement, causation, liability for attempted crimes, accomplice liability, defenses, and criminal code interpretation. The course will also introduce the limitations imposed on law enforcement activities by the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution as applied to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment. The course generally considers the criminal justice process from investigation through arrest and initial court appearance.

RATIONALE

For anyone who desires to work in the paralegal field, knowledge of criminal law and procedure is vital. Whether the goal is to work for a prosecutor or a criminal defense firm, students must understand the principles of criminal law and procedure, including Constitutional guarantees. Likewise, students seeking to enter this field must gain the necessary skills required in a law office, including law office management, client interaction, and preparation of memos, briefs, and other documents.

I. PREREQUISITES

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

A. Develop skills necessary to carefully read, analyze, synthesize, and communicate with regard to criminal law.
B. Develop a general understanding of constitutional, common law, and statutory principles of criminal law and the premises and policies on which they are based.

C. Develop the ability to apply principles of criminal law.

D. Recall and understand the key constitutional and common law principles of criminal procedure and the premises and policies on which they are based.

E. Analyze factual scenarios and properly evaluate whether police officers or other government agents have acted in accordance with the rules and principles of criminal procedure.

F. Discuss rules and principles of criminal procedure in a manner that reflects professional competence.

G. Evaluate and critique, from a Christian perspective, theories about how government should deal with persons suspected of crimes.

V. Course Requirements and Assignments

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations.

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board forums (3)

The student will participate in three discussion board forums. The student will post his or her original thread of 300 words or more by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of the assigned module/week. The student must reply to at least two peers’ threads in 150 words or more by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the same module/week.

D. News Article Reviews (2)

In Modules/Weeks 3 and 6, the student should submit a brief essay discussing a current news article that pertains to a trial related to criminal practice or procedure. News articles used for this assignment should come from the newspaper, a news program, or some other reputable news source (either traditional or online). Each essay should be no less than one page and no more than two full pages double-spaced with 12-point font and one-inch margins. Full citations for the articles should be provided as endnotes, and, if possible, the article itself should be included with the submission (articles do not count towards the total number of pages). Submissions over two pages will receive a reduction in points. These assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the assigned module/week.

E. Systems Folder

The student will compile a systems folder, which is a collection of forms, documents, checklists, procedural rules, and principles of law, including case law and statues and the rationale behind them. This folder will become a reference notebook for a paralegal. The student will complete the systems folder
assignments at the end of each chapter and submit them as one project by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

F. Quizzes (5)

The student will take five quizzes over the textbook readings throughout the term. Each will be 25 questions. They will be open-book/open-notes, and the student will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. These will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the assigned module/week. The final week is the exception as all assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board forums (3 at 100 pts ea)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Article Reviews (2 at 75 pts ea)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systems Folder</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5 at 50 pts ea)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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B. Scale

A = 900–1010   B = 800–899   C = 700–799   D = 600–699   F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
# COURSE SCHEDULE

**PLAW 230**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK/ MODULE</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>McCord et al.: chs. 1–2 2 presentations</td>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Quiz 1</td>
<td>10 0 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>McCord et al.: ch. 3 and Appendix B 1 article 3 presentations</td>
<td>DB Forum 1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>McCord et al.: chs. 4–5 1 presentation</td>
<td>News Article Review 1 Quiz 2</td>
<td>75 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>McCord et al.: chs. 6–8 1 presentation</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>McCord et al.: chs. 9–10 2 presentations</td>
<td>DB Forum 2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>McCord et al.: ch. 11 1 article 1 presentation</td>
<td>News Article Review 2 Quiz 4</td>
<td>75 50</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>McCord et al.: chs. 12–13 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>McCord et al.: chs. 14–15 1 presentation</td>
<td>Systems Folder Quiz 5</td>
<td>300 50</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL** 1010

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.