

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

CJUS 400 CRIMINAL LAW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an overview of the legal elements that apply to criminal law, procedure, and evidence, including proof, intent, conspiracy, classifications of crimes and related punishments, culpable mental states, defenses, rules of evidence (including the exclusionary rule), and rights and procedures in the gathering of evidence.

RATIONALE

The purpose of this course is to obtain familiarity with the criminal elements of crimes against persons, property, and order; be able to analyze and apply principles and procedures derived from the criminal law; and to arrive at an increased understanding of key terms, clauses, cases, and chronologies in criminal law.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

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 Office
- D. United States Constitution

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Analyze the basic components of the American criminal legal system.
- B. Apply the basic theories of criminal law and criminal procedure to specific fact patterns.
- C. Categorize the essential elements for crimes against persons, property, and the state.

- D. Integrate biblical truths regarding criminal law and procedure with real-world application of criminal law theory and procedure.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (6)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will complete 6 Discussion Board Forums that specifically relate to each module/week's content. Each Discussion Board Forum will be completed in 2 parts. The student will submit a 250–300-word thread after researching the topic provided. The student must cite at least 2 scholarly sources (in addition to the textbook) in current APA format. The student will then post replies of at least 150 words each to 2 classmates' threads citing at least 1 scholarly source to support his/her assertions.

NOTE: Scholarly sources can be books, journal articles, law review articles, etc. While you may use the textbook, the Bible, cases, and statutes; they will not count toward the minimum number of sources.

- D. Christian Worldview Essay

Based on a course presentation, the student will write a 1–2-page essay on Christian Worldview. The essay must follow current APA formatting and include 2 sources.

- E. Research Paper

The student will write a 5–8-page paper on a criminal law or procedure topic approved by the instructor. For this Research Paper, the student will submit a topic, a thesis and an outline, and a final submission.

- 1. Topic

The student will choose a criminal law topic and submit it, along with a 100-word rationale for choosing the selected topic, to the instructor for approval.

- 2. Thesis and Outline

The student will compose a thesis that states the subject matter of the paper and explains the position that is taken on the subject. The student will also complete a well-developed outline in current APA format, including all paper headings and subheadings. It must be clear and concise to provide an established framework for the paper.

3. Final Submission

The student will submit a final version of his/her Research Paper based on the criminal law or procedure topic approved by the instructor. The paper must be 5–8 pages, include 10 sources, and follow current APA formatting.

F. Tests (4)

The student will complete 4 open-book/open-note tests that cover the textbook readings. Each test is comprised of 50 multiple-choice questions and has a time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (6 at 65 pts ea)	390
Christian Worldview Essay	20
Research Paper	
Topic	15
Thesis and Outline	50
Final Submission	125
Tests (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
	Total 1010

B. Scale

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

C. CJUS Policy

The nature of the criminal justice community demands that persons involved be of a high level of integrity, and education is not merely academic in nature, but is holistic. Students enrolled in CJUS courses will be held to a high standard. Self-control is imperative for CJUS practitioners. If not “merely” to honor Christ, your family, and this academic institution, on a purely pragmatic level, in anticipation of future employability in the career field of your choice, conduct yourselves so as not to place yourselves in difficult and embarrassing situations.

D. Disability Assistance

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

CJUS 400

Textbook: Gardner & Anderson, *Criminal Law* (2018).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Gardner & Anderson: chs. 1, 3 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Christian Worldview Essay	10 0 20
2	Gardner & Anderson: chs. 5–7 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Research Paper: Topic Test 1	65 15 100
3	Gardner & Anderson: chs. 4, 8 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Research Paper: Thesis and Outline	65 50
4	Gardner & Anderson: chs. 9–10 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Test 2	65 100
5	Gardner & Anderson: chs. 11, 13–14 1 presentation	DB Forum 4	65
6	Gardner & Anderson: chs. 12, 15 1 presentation	DB Forum 5 Test 3	65 100
7	Gardner & Anderson: chs. 16–17 1 presentation	DB Forum 6	65
8	Gardner & Anderson: chs. 18–19 1 presentation	Research Paper: Final Submission Test 4	125 100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/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 module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.