

Course Number: **CRJ 120**  
Course Title: **Criminal Law**  
Number of Credit Hours: 3  
Academic Year and Semester: Fall 2008  
Class Meets: Monday and Thursday 1100 to 1215

**Description:** Provides a comprehensive analysis of the fundamentals of substantive criminal law. Students will learn the essential elements of crimes and the rationale underlying criminal law. The nature of jurisdiction, the criminal act, the criminal state of mind and matters affecting responsibility for criminal conduct are included.

Instructor: Edward J. Cashman,  
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Office Hours: Monday and Thursday as requested

### **Required Materials**

***Criminal Law, Tenth Edition;*** Thomas J. Gardner, Terry M. Anderson  
Student Edition ISBN 0-534-62456-1

Suggested additional readings and viewings:

*On Crime and Punishment*, Cesare Beccaria

*Antigone*, Sophocles

*The Oxbow Incident*, William Wellman, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox (1943)

*Mississippi Burning*, Alan Parker, Orion Pictures Corporation (1988)

### **Course Objectives**

1. Students will first gain understanding of the history and application of fundamental concepts of substantive criminal law, including the elements of substantive charges and affirmative defenses, jurisdiction issues, varying degrees of responsibility for crime dependent on intent, the ever changing nature of substantive criminal law, and the new “crimes” of the Information age.
2. Students then will gain the practical facility to identify and characterize different types of anti social behavior within the elements of a particular criminal statute.
3. Students will gain the appreciation that criminal law, while appearing somewhat mathematical in theory, is very fact intensive in application.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

Class attendance and participation	50%
Class quiz and test results	10%
Mid Term Exam	10%
First Group Project	10%
Second Group Project	10%
Final Exam	10%

Failure to attend all of the classes will adversely affect the final mark. Class participation represents the key learning experience from the course.

Each class will have a short quiz to determine the progress of the class and the success of the teaching methods.

Rather than writing a term paper, students, working in groups not of their choosing, will prepare, participate and evaluate two practical problems:

The first addresses the issue of the death penalty.

The second addresses the issue of prosecutorial discretion.

### **Grading System**

Grades represent an attempt to quantify overall student performance during the course. This course follows the Champlain College grading system.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you believe that you have a disability requiring accommodations in this class, please contact the Coordinator of Support Services for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible. After you receive your accommodation form, please see me so that I can work with you to implement them in a timely fashion.

Contact: Allyson Krings, Coordinator of Support Services with Disabilities Office: Hauke 106A; Phone: 802-651-5961; Email: [krings@champlain.edu](mailto:krings@champlain.edu)

## **Academic Honesty**

### *Champlain College Policy:*

"In the preparation and presentation of any assigned work-including examinations, tests, quizzes, term papers, reports, themes and other written or oral exercises-every student shall conform to a strict standard of academic honesty. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard.

In all assignments, students must acknowledge the words and/or ideas of others taken from print or electronic media, whether a direct quotation or a paraphrase; any omission of this is dishonest.

Cheating on examinations or tests consists of knowingly giving, receiving or using-or attempting to give, receive or use-unauthorized assistance during an examination or test.

A faculty member may record a grade of "zero" for any assignment on which a student has plagiarized or cheated. For repeat offenses within a single course, the faculty member may record a grade of "F" for the course. Violations of this policy in multiple courses may result in dismissal from the College. A student may appeal these decisions according to the Academic Grievance Procedure."