

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## **POL 335: Criminal Law**

### **A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites:

ACCT 205 - Environment of Law; OR

POL 230 - Introduction to the Law; OR

CJ 200 - Introduction to Criminal Justice

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Substantive criminal law; development of principles, meaning and applications of criminal law; current issues and institutions. Same as CJ 335

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 02/02/2000 - Present

### **C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

1. Nature, Purpose and Function of Criminal law
2. Constitutional limitations
3. Theories of punishment and sentencing policy
4. Elements of crimes---actus reus, mens rea and concurrence
5. Parties to crimes and vicarious liability
6. Inchoate crimes---attempt, conspiracy, solicitation
7. Defenses to crime---justifications and excuses
8. Crimes against persons---assault, battery, criminal sexual conduct, homicide, kidnapping, false imprisonment, robbery and extortion.
9. Crimes against property and habitation---burglary, arson, trespass, mischief, larceny, embezzlement, fraud
10. White collar crime---securities fraud, tax evasion, antitrust
11. Crimes against morality and public order---disturbing the peace, riot, unlawful assembly, breach of the public peace
12. Narcotics and alcohol related crime and punishment

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Students will understand the development of American criminal law as it evolved from British common law concepts and the process of codification occurring in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as the development of the Model Penal Code and other scholarly attempts at a ¿unified¿ criminal code structure.
2. Students will understand the constitutional context of criminal law and criminal procedure both in federal and state constitutional development and the limitations placed on both federal and state government in the area of crime control.
3. Students will understand and appreciate the relevance of defining elements of crimes¿act, intent, and legal concurrence and learn both the common law and modern statutory definitions of criminal prohibitions in all major subject area
4. Students will be able to categorize crimes by subject area----crimes against persons, property, morality and public order, white collar crime, crimes against habitation and understand the substantive peculiarities, origins and prosecutorial efforts sought within each subject area.

#### **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

None

#### **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

#### **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted