

Angelina College  
Technology and Workforce Division  
CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE LGLA 2313  
General Syllabus

**I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

A. Course Description: *(as stated in the bulletin, including necessary pre-requisite courses, credit hours)*

Three Hours Credit. This course introduces the criminal justice system including procedures from arrest to final disposition, principles of federal and state law, and the preparation of pleadings and motions. The student will define and properly use terminology relating to criminal law; describe sources of law relating to criminal law; describe the role and ethical obligations of the paralegal relating to criminal law; and draft documents commonly used in criminal law. Three lecture hours per week.

Prerequisite: LGLA 1307 (Introduction to Law and the Legal Professions)

B. Intended Audience:  
Sophomore

C. Instructor:

Name: Dawn Armstrong

Office Location: Technology and Workforce Building, room 150

Office Hours: see posted hours

Phone: c- 936-676-2899, office- 936-633-5329

E-mail Address: darmstrong@angelina.edu

**II. INTENDED STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

**A. Core Competencies – (Basic Intellectual Competencies)**

**1. Reading:** Reading at the college level means the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials – books, articles, and documents. A core curriculum should offer students the opportunity to master both general methods of analyzing printed materials and specific methods for analyzing the subject matter of individual disciplines.

**2. Writing:** Competency in writing is the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience. Although correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are each a *sine qua non* in any composition, they do not automatically ensure that the composition itself makes sense or that the writer has much of anything to say. Students need to be familiar with the writing process including how to discover a topic and how to develop and organize it, how to phrase it effectively for their audience. These abilities can be acquired only through practice and reflection.

**3. Speaking:** Competence in speaking is the ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience. Developing this competency includes acquiring poise and developing control of the language through experience in making presentations to small groups, to large groups, and through the media.

**4. Listening:** Listening at the college level means the ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication.

**5. Critical Thinking:** Angelina College defines critical thinking as the dynamic process of questioning preconceptions and biases through the gathering and evaluation of data to reach new conclusions that consider realistic implications and consequences.

**6. Computer Literacy:** Computer literacy at the college level means the ability to use computer-based technology in communicating, solving problems, and acquiring information. Core-educated students should have an understanding of the limits, problems, and possibilities associated with the use of technology, and should have the tools necessary to evaluate and learn new technologies as they become available. (*The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. ("Report of Subcommittee on Core Curriculum", March 1, 1989).*)

**B. Exemplary Objectives –** (*Found in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Document. Titled: CORE CURRICULUM: ASSUMPTIONS AND DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS Dated: April 1998*)  
N/A

**C. Course Objectives for all sections –**

1. Develop an understanding of the laws that govern all aspects of the criminal offender in the criminal justice system in the beginning paralegal with an emphasis on the procedural aspects of criminal justice from investigation and arrest through final conviction.
2. Gain familiarity with criminal justice terminology, legal research of criminal law issues, and in drafting documents commonly used in criminal law.

**D. Course Objectives as determined by the instructor –**

**III. ASSESSMENT MEASURES OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

**A. Assessments for the Core Intellectual Competencies –**

1. Reading – Reading will be measured by the student's demonstration of understanding and interpreting assigned reading material and written instructions.
2. Writing – Writing will be measured by the student's completion of writing assignments in clear, correct, and coherent prose.
3. Listening – Listening will be measured by the student's appropriately interpreting spoken communication, developing appropriate responses to spoken communication.
4. Critical Thinking – Critical Thinking will be measured by the student demonstrating an ability to analyze case scenarios and applying case law or statutes to a fact situation through class assignments.

**B. Assessments for the Exemplary Objectives–**

N/A

**C. Assessments for Course Objectives for all sections –**

1. Develop an understanding of the laws that govern all aspects of the criminal offender in the criminal justice system in the beginning paralegal with an emphasis on the procedural aspects of criminal justice from investigation and arrest through final conviction through embedded questions in examinations and class assignments.
2. Gain familiarity with criminal justice terminology, legal research of criminal law issues, and in drafting documents commonly used in criminal law through embedded questions in examinations and class assignments.

**D. Assessments for the Course Objectives as determined by the instructor –**

1. There will be a midterm that makes up 30% of your grade.
2. There will be a case brief that makes up 30% of your grade.
3. There will be a final exam that makes up 30% of your grade.
4. Attendance that makes up 10% of your grade.

SEE CALANDAR FOR DATES

**IV. INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:**

**A. Methodologies common to all sections**

Lecture and class discussions.

**B. Methodologies determined by the instructor**

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:**

**A. Required Textbooks, Materials, and Equipment –**

**CRIMINAL LAWS OF TEXAS**, by DIANE BURCH BECKHAM, published by Texas District and County Attorney Association.

**B. TEXAS CRIMINAL LAW, PRINCIPALS AND PRACTICES, By Jerry Dowling**

**B. Assignments –** *(Appropriate due dates, schedules, deadlines)*

**C. Course Policies – (This course conforms to the policies of Angelina College as stated in the Angelina College Handbook.)**

**Academic Assistance –** Academic Assistance – If you have a disability (as cited in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) that may affect your participation in this class, you should see Maria Lopez or Steve Hudman in room 200 of the Student Center. At a postsecondary institution, you must self-identify as a person with a disability; Ms. Lopez and Mr. Hudman will assist you with the necessary information to do so. To report any complaints of discrimination related to disability, you should contact Mr. Steve Hudman, Dean of Student Affairs, in Room 101 of the Student Center. You may also contact Dean Hudman by phone at [\(936\) 633-5292](tel:9366335292) or by email [shudman@angelina.edu](mailto:shudman@angelina.edu).

**Attendance –**Students will be required to attend all lectures and laboratory classes regularly and punctually. Responsibility for work missed because of illness or extracurricular activity is placed upon the student. Excessive absences are defined as three or more consecutive absences or four or more cumulative absences from regularly scheduled class periods.

**Additional Policies Established by the Individual Instructor -**

## **VI. COURSE CONTENT:**

**A. Required Content/ Topics –** *(common to all sections)*

Laws that govern all aspects of the criminal offender in the criminal justice system in the beginning paralegal with an emphasis on the procedural aspects of criminal justice from investigation and arrest through final conviction. Students will gain familiarity with criminal justice terminology, legal research of criminal law issues, and in drafting documents commonly used in criminal law.

**PART OF YOUR FINAL GRADE, 10% WILL BE BASED ON ATTENDANCE!**

**B. Additional Content** *(as required by the individual Instructor)*

## **VII. EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

**A. Grading Criteria** *(percents, extra credit, etc.)*

**B. Determination of Grade** *(assignment of letter grades)*

1. A: 90 or above
2. B: 80-89
3. C: 70-79
4. D: 60-69
5. F: 59 or lower

## **VIII. SYLLABUS MODIFICATION:**

The instructor may modify the provisions of the syllabus to meet individual class needs by informing the class in advance as to the changes being made.