FUNDAMENTALS OF CRIMINAL LAW (CRIJ 1310)
SYLLABUS
SCH: 3 LECTURE / 0 LAB

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
A study of the nature of criminal law. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to: discuss the nature of criminal law, including the historical and philosophical developments of substantive and procedural law; be able to define terms of law and concepts that accompany them; discuss the classifications of crime; discuss and relate the elements of and defenses to crimes and the penalties attached thereto according to Texas law; and discuss the criminal responsibilities of persons. This course will focus on criminal law, using the current Texas Penal Code as illustrative of an operating penal code.

TEXT AND SUPPLIES:
TEXT – REQUIRED: Texas Criminal Laws. (Current ed.) (Preferred book, available in College Bookstore); this is the only book required for this course- note taking is essential!
NOT REQUIRED, BUT SUGGESTED: a legal dictionary or dictionary of criminal justice
Supplies: Students will bring notebooks, pens, pencils, and Scantron® sheets for examinations to class. It is suggested that students purchase several Scantron® sheets, both objective-type and essay-type, at the beginning of the semester, and have them available during class, in the event an unannounced quiz is given.

COURSE GOALS / OBJECTIVES:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
• identify the elements of crimes and defenses under Texas statutes, Model Penal Code, and case law.
• classify offenses and articulate penalties for various crimes.
• compare culpable mental states when assigning criminal responsibility.
• assess the impact of history and philosophy on current criminal laws.
• evaluate the application of criminal law to other areas of criminal justice such as law enforcement and corrections.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND CLASS POLICIES:
Participation Statement: For Online courses, students MUST actively participate by completing an academic assignment by the official census date. Students who do not do so, will be dropped from the course.
Each student should anticipate at least one hour out of class preparation for each lecture hour, plus study time preparing for examinations. Attendance is important in this class.
Portable cellular phones, beepers, and similar paging devices may be disruptive to the class, and you are encouraged NOT to bring them into the classroom. If you do bring them to class, please make sure they are turned off. Should they become a nuisance, you may be asked to remove them from the classroom. The wearing of hats and the consumption of food are not
allowed in during class, and, pursuant to Midland College Policy 5:14:02, the use of tobacco products (smoking, dipping, chewing, etc.) is prohibited in the building, including the classroom.

**Students missing a major examination must make the exam before the next class period unless special arrangements are made.** Make-up examinations may be the same as, or different from, the examination given in class. Make-up examinations will cover the same material as the scheduled examination. Failure to make up an examination will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam. No make-up opportunity is available for the final exam. Final exams are not given early or late. The instructor reserves the right to give quizzes, announced or unannounced, at any time. There is no opportunity to make up quizzes that are missed.

The instructor cannot drop students from courses. It is your responsibility to drop a class if you no longer plan to attend and complete the semester. Check the Midland College catalog for the last day to drop a course. You may be limited in the number of courses you can drop, and you may not be entitled to a tuition refund if you drop a course.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

The class meets for six lecture hours per week.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

Instructor: Brian Kneisley  
Office: 174 Technical Building  
Telephone: (432) 685-4685  
E-mail:  
Division: Social/Behavioral Science and Business Studies (685-6830)

**ADA Statement:** Any student who because of a disabling condition may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the Counselor/Disability Specialist at 432-685-5598 as soon as possible. The Counselor/Disability Specialist is located in the Scharbauer Student Center Building. These conditions may include documented physical or educational disabilities. Please be aware that services or accommodations are not automatic. Each student must request them and secure the proper authorizations/documentation.