Criminal Law

Part II Syllabus – Fall 2026
3 Credit Hours
Online via Blackboard at http://edisonohio.blackboard.com

Instructor:	Kris Lee
Credentials:	MA Organizational Management, Bluffton University, 2007, MBA Bluffton University, 2006, BA Communications, Wright State University, 1988
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Required Reading

Schmalleger, F. (2021). *Criminal law today* (7th edition). Pearson.

Course Description

Overview of substantive and procedural criminal law and how criminal offenses are processed by the criminal justice system. The impact of federal and state constitutional rights on the enactment and enforcement of criminal prohibitions is examined. Criminal offenses are explained, as well as relevant defenses for crime. Prerequisite: CRJ 111S or LEG 110S.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will:

1. Distinguish between substantive and procedural law.
2. Explain how federal and state constitutions impact law enforcement.
3. List the stages of the criminal process, identifying the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved.
4. Describe the crimes and offenses of each category of substantive law.
5. Analyze how defenses affect guilt for each type of crime or offense.

Syllabus Part I

Grading

Grading rubrics for assignments are provided in Blackboard for the given assignment. Be sure to read each carefully to ensure all of the requirements are met for each of your assignments.

FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN

Assignment	Points
Discussion Forums 15*30	450
Quizzes 8*25	200
Writing Assignments 5*30	150
Case Brief	
Case Selection	10
Paper	50
Presentation and Discussion	40
Final Exam	100
Total	1000

GRADING SCALE

Point Range	Letter Grade
900-1000	A (90% - 100%)
800-899	B (80% - 89%)
700-799	C (70% - 79%)
600-699	D (60% - 69%)
0-599	F (Below 60%)

Assignments and Methods of Evaluation

Discussion Forums (15 at 30 points each – 450 points total)

The discussion forums aim to evaluate a student's understanding of the course material through an interactive learning environment. These forums consist of a series of questions that will enable discussion and assist in developing skills such as peer communication, justification for arguments and abstract thought.

There are a total of 15 discussion forums with the first being a personal introduction forum and the remaining focusing on content related issues. The forums require students to provide a detailed synopsis and produce thoughtful questions for discussion. In order to properly complete these discussions, a student must post an initial response completely addressing the forum requirements by 11:59pm Thursday. This response should use proper APA citations and meet a minimum standard of completeness to the prompt. Each discussion board has a required word count.

Secondly, students must reply to a minimum of 2 colleagues by 11:59pm Sunday. Responses such as "good job" or simply "I agree," do not discuss the topic and are not acceptable. In responding to another classmate's post, you must:

1. First, identify the point the other student made that you want to address and summarize their point briefly.
2. Then, state what your take is on their point.
3. Ask a question to continue the conversation.
4. A response should be a minimum 100 words.

Students will not be able to comment on other posts until they have posted their initial response to the prompt. Replying to the comments from other colleagues on your own post does not count towards the minimum of 2 responses required, however in keeping with respect for one another it is encouraged to reply to those who comment on your post.

Grading Rubric	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
Quality of discussion answers (20 points)	Ties together readings and concepts to contribute to an in-depth discussion	Discusses the readings, but more analysis was needed of the source	Posts touch on readings, but the explanations and connections between them are vague	Post is purely opinion and does not connect to facts from assigned material, but is related to the question	Short and uninformative posts that do not add to the discussion done or done last minute and hastily written
Responses (5 points for each of 2)	Meets all requirements: -discuss what they wrote (literally summarize their main point) -explain your reaction to what they said -further the conversation by asking questions -comments are 100+ words each	Meets three of the following: -discuss what they wrote (literally summarize their main point) -explain your reaction to what they said -further the conversation by asking questions -comments are 100+ words each	Meets two of the following: -discuss what they wrote (literally summarize their main point) -explain your reaction to what they said -further the conversation by asking questions -comments are 100+ words each	Meets one of the following: -discuss what they wrote (literally summarize their main point) -explain your reaction to what they said -further the conversation by asking questions -comments are 100+ words each	Difficult to understand what the point of the message is. No responses.

Peer Feedback

This course is designed along the principles of synergy and collaborative learning. Therefore, it is important that all students understand how to provide quality feedback to their peers. Here are a few tips for providing positive, constructive, and useful feedback to peers:

- Be empathetic and remember this environment is a safe place for making mistakes.

- Use nonjudgmental language and phrases that do not attack an individual. One way of doing this is to ask the individual to discuss his/her process for making the final decision he/she made.
- Use specific questions, examples, and research as a way of making your point.
- Make your feedback useful by providing suggestions that the individual can understand and use to improve his/her work.

Quizzes (8 at 25 points each – 200 points total)

A series of quizzes will be required throughout the semester. These quizzes will highlight critical knowledge of the different elements of the course material and require completion in a timed scenario. The first quiz requires knowledge of the syllabus while the following quizzes focus on course content. The quizzes can be completed at any time during the week and can be retaken. However, they must be completed before 11:59pm Sunday, before the next module begins and cannot be retaken after that.

Writing Assignments (5 at 30 points each – 150 points total)

Writing assignments are designed to show the student's comprehension of the material presented through readings, lectures, and discussions. These assignments aim to test retention of key concepts, terms and theories, as well as proper application of theory. Throughout the course students will explore websites, read case studies, watch videos, read articles, etc. After, students will be asked to complete writing assignments which may include, but are not limited to short papers, journals using persuasive arguments, or short answer question responses.

Case Brief Project (3 parts – 100 points total)

Case Selection

Students will submit the top three cases they wish to prepare a brief on along with the reasoning why they are interested in writing about this case. Students will not be allowed to brief the same case as another student. The first to request will be approved. Other students requesting the same case will be asked to submit another case to research. Cases briefed in the course text or other portions of the course will not be permitted. The focus of the cases briefed should be on those impacting Criminal Law. This portion of the project is worth 10 points.

Paper

For the paper, students will prepare a case brief on the approved case of their choosing. A case brief should be a concise summary of the relevant facts of the case. This type of brief is meant to analyze a case and present needed information in an abbreviated format. To begin the assignment, you should read the court's written opinion on the case you selected and take notes. A case brief of this nature may only be 1 or 2 pages in length.

Your case brief should include the following parts: the case citation, the facts of the case, the procedural history of the case, a summation of the issue or issues involved, the court's decision, an overview of the rationale for the decision, and your notes regarding the case.

Additional resources regarding a case brief and the case brief project can be found in the Research Resources Folder in our Blackboard Course Page. Further details regarding the sections required within the case brief can be found in Appendix A of our course text. In submitting the case brief, please also include a title page and reference list following APA format. The paper is worth 50 points.

Presentation
Students will create a presentation for the case brief to share with their peers. Students can create a PowerPoint presentation with voice over, a Prezi with voice over, a YouTube video, zoom recording, or other format of your choosing. Presentations must be posted to the appropriate Blackboard thread by 11:59pm Sunday, *November 29th*.

Each student must also respond to a minimum of 2 colleagues by 11:59pm Saturday, *December 12th*. The presentation and responses are worth 40 points total.

Final Exam (100 points total)
One cumulative final exam will be given. The exam must be completed by 11:59pm Saturday, *December 12th.*

Course Calendar

Week/ Dates/Topic(s)	Readings/Assignments
1. Introduction and Overview August 24th – August 30th	**Readings/Video:** Syllabus Course Navigation Introduction to the Course **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 1: Introductions Quiz 1: Syllabus
2. The Nature and History of Criminal Law August 31st – September 6th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 1 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 2 Writing Assignment 1

3. Criminal Liability and The Essence of Crime September 7th – September 13th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 2 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 3 Quiz 2: Chapters 1 & 2
4. Expanding the Concept of Crime September 14th – September 20th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 3 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 4 Writing Assignment 2
5. Extending Criminal Liability September 21st – September 27th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 4 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 5 Quiz 3: Chapters 3 & 4 Case Selection
6. Justifications as Defenses September 28th – October 4th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 5 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 6 Writing Assignment 3
7. Defenses: Excuses and Insanity October 5th – October 11th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 6 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 7 Quiz 4: Chapters 5 & 6

8. Crimes Against Persons: Homicide October 12th – October 18th *(Midterm Week)*	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 7 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 8 Writing Assignment 4
9. Crimes Against Persons: Assault, Sex Offenses, and Other Crimes October 19th – October 25th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 8 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 9 Quiz 5: Chapters 7 & 8
10. Property and Computer Crimes October 26th – November 1st	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 9 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 10 Case Brief
11. Offenses Against Public Order November 2nd – November 8th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 10 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 11 Quiz 6: Chapters 9 & 10
12. Offenses Against Public Morality November 9th – November 10th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 11 Lectures & PowerPoints **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 12 Writing Assignment 5

13. Terrorism and Human Trafficking November 11th – November 22nd	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 12 **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 13 Quiz 7: Chapters 11 & 12
14. Victims and The Law November 23rd – November 29th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 13 Lecture & PowerPoint **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 14 Case Brief Presentation
15. Punishment and Sentencing November 30th – December 6th	**Readings/Video:** Schmalleger Chapter 14 Lectures & PowerPoints **Assignments:** Discussion Forum 15 Quiz 8: Chapters 13 & 14
16. Final Week December 7th – December 12th	**Readings/Video:** **Assignments:** Case Brief Presentation Peer Remarks Final Exam

Class Participation Policy

By registering for this online course, students commit to self-motivated study, participation in online course activities, and the submission of all assignments on time. Students are expected to commit 9 hours per week to this course, as they would a traditional in person course. Furthermore, they commit to accessing the course website and checking email at least four times a week.

This is an online class and participation is mandatory. Each week has a graded discussion board. Please see the course calendar for the due dates for each assignment. The calendar is well organized and provided to students at the beginning of the course for planning purposes. Due dates and assignments are subject to change, so please monitor your email and Blackboard throughout the term.

ATTENDANCE
For attendance purposes, you must complete the Introduction Discussion Forum, as shown in Week 1. This establishes you as an active student in this class. To withdraw from the class and receive **a full refund you must officially withdraw by the close of business on *September 7th*.** There are no refunds after that date. However, you may still withdraw from the class and receive a **grade of "W" until noon, *November 2nd*** but will not receive any refund. After that date, there are no withdrawals without special petition for extenuating circumstances.

To officially withdraw from the course, you MUST complete the appropriate form and drop or submit to Enrollment Services at the Piqua Campus, Darke County Center, Troy Center, or Eaton Center. Failure to do so will result in a grade of **"F"** and may impact current or future Financial Aid. You also have a choice to submit the form through MYESCC.

Course Expectations

Students will use the internet to access the Blackboard course site. The course has a modular structure, which is easily navigable running from Monday to Sunday at 11:59pm. The assignments folder in Blackboard contains the required readings, videos and other materials, and links to weekly discussion questions and projects.

Instructions and due dates for activities and assignments are clearly articulated so students know what is expected of them and can easily stay on track. Please ensure that all work submitted is original and does not violate any form of the Edison State Academic Honesty Policy. Additionally, keep backup files of all completed work in case submissions are lost or do not properly submit through Blackboard. Be sure any paper submission is properly headed using APA format. See Edison State Resource Links or the Purdue Owl for assistance should you require or desire it.

Late Work Policy

If you know you will be late in completing any assignment, please contact your instructor to make other arrangements. Late work will be accepted within one week of the due date. A penalty will be applied for late submissions at 10%-point deduction for every day late. Work submitted more than one week past the due date will not be graded unless arrangements were made with the instructor prior to the original due date. However, under no circumstances will any work be accepted beyond the last day of the semester. If an emergency arises, please contact your instructor.

Course Changes

Throughout the course there may be additional lectures, videos, articles, etc. added to the weekly folders. This additional information is intended to enhance your comprehension of the subject matter for the week and may be included in corresponding writing assignments and quizzes. If any assignments or requirements of the course change, an email will be sent, the Calendar will be changed, or an announcement will be posted on the homepage. Students are

responsible for all announcements and changes to the course communicated by these means, so please check these areas on a regular basis.

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic integrity is submitting one's own work and properly acknowledging the work of others. Any violation of this principle constitutes academic dishonesty and is liable to result in disciplinary action. Forms of academic dishonesty include:

• **Plagiarism** - submitting all or part of another's work as one's own in an academic exercise, such as an examination, computer program, or written assignment.

• **Cheating** - using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on an examination or assignment, such as using unauthorized texts or notes or improperly obtaining, or attempting to obtain, copies of an examination or answers to an examination.

• **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty** - helping another commit an act of dishonesty, such as substituting for an examination or completing an assignment for someone else. *This is considered the same as plagiarism.

• **Fabrication** - altering or transmitting, without authorization, academic information or records.

The Edison Community College Academic Honesty policy will be strictly adhered to in this course. Any violation of plagiarism, Cheating, Facilitating Academic Dishonesty, or Fabrication will result in receiving a zero for the assignment. If you commit a second violation, you will automatically fail the course and be reported to the Department Chair/College Dean/Academic Honesty Committee. Please refer to the Edison Community Student Handbook online https://www.edisonohio.edu/uploadedFiles/_Web_Assets/Documents/Handbooks/Student_Handbook_2014.pdf

WRITING EXPECTATIONS

In this class I expect you to write using complete sentences, paragraphs, and correct grammar. This will be expected of you on the job, particularly if you desire to advance in your career. The Learning Center in the library has tutors who can help you. The library also has e-tutoring available, or you could have a friend or family member read your writing before you submit.

You are welcome to reference the writings of others for this class, but you must provide references for any information that is not your original work. Be sure to use APA in text citations and include a references page to avoid plagiarizing the words of others!

AI POLICY

There are a variety of AI programs available to assist writers. AI programs are NOT a replacement for human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, like any skill, must be developed through practice over time. I encourage you to use AI (such as Word Editor) to help you with spelling and grammar. However, the majority of any submission should be created by the student. Students may not, for example, type a question into an AI platform and copy and paste its response.

Any AI assistance other than basic editing should be tracked and cited within the assignment. Submitting AI-generated work without identifying it as such will be considered academic dishonesty.

Communication

EMAIL

All students, faculty, and staff are required to use their Edison email account for all college communication. Please do not send an email message to your instructor using any email account other than your Edison email; your instructor does not open emails with personal account addresses, and no subject line. When you email your instructor, please include the course and section you are enrolled in the subject line.

TELEPHONE

The instructor's office phone number and other contact information are included in this document. However, email is the best way to reach the instructor.

BLACKBOARD

The entire course will be hosted using Blackboard. When students have a question that is relevant to the class on the whole (i.e. clarification on general assessment guidelines), those questions should be posted to the Discussion Board entitled "General Questions." Furthermore, when new posts are made, other students are encouraged to comment and read these postings as they are made available.

Below are summaries of the types of course communication that may arise in Blackboard:

Announcements

The announcements page is the home page for our course and will update students on any changes to the course and reminders for upcoming deadlines. Announcements may also be emailed to student's ESCC email addresses.

Discussion Forum

The discussion forum is the heart of our online course. It is where you will submit many of your assignments, and where you will discuss your work with your classmates. All forums are visible to all members of the course. Therefore, whatever is posted can be seen by everyone in the course. If you want to send a private message, use email.

Instructor Feedback

As your instructor, I am committed to providing a quality learning experience through thoughtful planning, implementation, and assessment of course activities. I am also committed to being readily available to students throughout the semester by returning emails within 24 to 48 hours (depending on holidays) and to returning graded course work with feedback within 7 days of each assignment's due date. Emails sent after 5pm on Friday may not be responded to until Monday morning, please send any communication before that time to ensure a timely response.

ACADEMIC ALERT
In order to support your success, the instructor of this course may contact your career pathways advisor regarding your attendance and academic performance. This academic alert may be initiated at designated times during the first half of the term or at any time your success is in jeopardy. If you find yourself struggling for any reason, please contact your instructor or advisor for support.

Netiquette

First and foremost, students are expected to complete all work for the course in a timely manner. Prompt assessment submissions will help with timely feedback.

Also, use of proper network etiquette – "Netiquette" – is crucial due to the developing communication on digital networks. Some recommendations which are viable in order to build a positive online classroom environment include: 1) Referring to colleagues by their first name when addressing comments, 2) Responding promptly to messages, 3) Using appropriate language when making comments and submitting assessments and 4) Offering assistance and recommendations to colleagues to better enhance the experience of all in the course.

Finally, be respectful to all colleagues and understand there will be different levels of understanding due to varying experiences.

Academic Accommodations

ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES POLICY
Edison State Community College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact the instructor privately with your self-identification letter. If you do not have a self-identification letter, contact Accessibility and Disability Support Services by emailing accessibilitysupport@edisonohio.edu or by calling 937.381.1548.
Accessibility and Disability Support Services is located on the Piqua Campus in Room 160. For additional information, visit the Accessibility and Disability Services page.

TESTING YOUR FAITH ACT POLICY
Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty.

Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/registration-records, located in "Forms" and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/student-resources.

Edison State Community College Campus Resources

ADVISING SERVICES
Edison State's career pathway advisors are your partners in success. A career pathway advisor is the first advisor that you will meet with once you have made the decision to further your education. Together, you and your career pathway advisor will:

- Identify the right academic major to set you on your desired career path.
- Identify the courses you'll need to accomplish your academic goals.
- Help you develop a student plan tailored to your lifestyle and work schedule.
- Prepare you to navigate your first semester at Edison State.

You can find your career pathway advisor and faculty advisor information, including their email address, by logging into MyESCC and clicking on Student Planning. Go to Plan and Schedule and click on the Advising tab. You may also call 937-778-7850 to connect via phone call.

CAREER AND JOB SERVICES
Our Career and Job Services advisors are dedicated to helping students and alumni advance their professional development as they make career decisions, develop job search strategies, pursue experiential opportunities and secure employment. Career and Job Services also provides career assessments, career information, resume and cover letter help, job postings and resources, tips for interviewing and more. Visit https://www.edisonohio.edu/Career-and-Job-Services/ for more information.

COMPUTERS
If you are working on campus, computers with internet access are available in the internet café. The Library and Tutoring Center has computers and printers available for your use.

LIBRARY SERVICES
The Edison State library is not only a comfortable place to study, we have an expansive collection of online resources available to help you with your research. Check out the library webpage here: https://www.edisonohio.edu/Library/.

Libguides and short instructional videos are available to help you use these resources and can be found at: https://libguides.edisonohio.edu/. Please contact the library staff with any library questions you may have at library@edisonohio.edu, 937-778-7950, or stop in!

TUTORING SERVICES
All Edison State students are eligible to receive free tutoring and learning support services through our Tutoring Center. Available services include Edison State tutors, both online and in-person, covering a wide variety of courses including various levels of math and paper reviews, online tutoring through OhioLINK eTutoring, distraction-reduced study rooms, and the use of Tutoring Center resources including subject-specific and general study guides.

For more information on tutoring services, visit the Tutoring Center in the Library, email us at tutoringcenter@edisonohio.edu, call 937-778-7959, or visit our webpage at https://www.edisonohio.edu/tutoring-center/

STUDENT WELLNESS CENTER

College is stressful! Feeling burnt out, anxious, frustrated? When challenges arise, it's helpful to have someone to talk to. We have partnerships established with many local mental health providers and can connect you with area resources.

The Student Wellness Center helps students navigate obstacles which might cause issues or create a sense of distress during your school year.Edison State has built a network of health professionals to support students. With these partnerships, the Student Wellness Center can assist students who need support in areas such as:

- o Recovery and Counseling referral
- o Housing
- o Food
- o Physical well-being

Information and education are also provided on the topics of:

- o Alcohol and drug abuse and prevention
- o Sexual assault prevention and awareness
- o Building healthy relationships
- o Inclusion and belonging
- o Survivor support
- o Self-care
- o Anti-Hazing

If there is a medical emergency, please call 911. If there is a mental health emergency, please call 988.

STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER AND CHARGER STATION FOOD PANTRIES

Edison State Community College is proud to assist students needing help to obtain basic necessities. The Student Resource Center and Food Pantry is stocked with all kinds of grab-and-go snacks, meal supplies, toiletries, household needs, and community resources. Stop by and check out our Charger Stations in Room 060 at Piqua, in the student lounge at Troy, in the Brooke-Gould Learning Resource Center at Eaton, and in Room 121 (for personal care items) and pantry items in the student lounge at Greenville. If you need additional assistance, please reach out at ResourceCenter@edisonohio.edu.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For Blackboard Assignment issues, the instructor should be the first point of contact.
For Log-in or other technology issues:
There are several steps you can follow if you have issues logging in to Blackboard or Office.
During business hours:

- · Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the "forgot password" prompts.
- · Reach out for help during regular business hours (9-5 Monday-Thursday, 9-4 Friday)
  - o email to support@edisonohio.edu
  - o call 937-778-8600 and ask for IT Help Desk

After hours:

- Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the “forgot password” prompts
- Go to www.edisonohio.edu into the Resources tab and click "IT Help Desk" then click "Chat".
- Call 937-778-7957 and talk to the off-campus Blackboard company to get help

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For additional help, please click the ASSIST tab on Blackboard or the Edison State Student Resources folder within your course.

TITLE IX STATEMENT - Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying

It is the policy of the College to maintain a learning environment free from bullying, discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual violence. Title IX federal law protects students, employees and third parties with a relationship to the college.

All Edison State Community College employees are required to report all knowledge of incidents that violate the Title IX policy to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator immediately. Student and employee confidential consultation is available through the Coordinator of Health and Wellness Services.

Title IX Policy and procedure language as well as contact information for the Coordinator of Health and Wellness, Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator can be found at www.edisonohio.edu/TitleIX/.