FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL
Undergraduate Programs

Department School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

College Social Work and Criminal Justice

*(To obtain a course number, contact **erudolph@fau.edu**)*

UUPC Approval 3-30-26
UFS Approval
SCNS Submittal
Confirmed
Banner Posted
Catalog

Prefix CJL

Number 4410

(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)

Lab Code n/a

Type of Course Lecture

Course Title Criminal Law

Credits *(See Definition of a Credit Hour)* 3

Grading *(Select One Option)*

Regular (●)

Sat/UnSat ( )

Effective Date *(TERM & YEAR)* Fall 2026

Course Description *(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)*

The course introduces students to the main principals of American Criminal Law. The course examines the basic concepts of criminal law and the essential elements of a crime.

Prerequisites, with minimum grade* None

Corequisites None

Registration Controls *(Major, College, Level)* None

***Default minimum passing grade is D-.** **Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course**

WAC/Gordon Rule Course

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See WAC Guidelines.

Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement *(Select One Option)*

None

General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

Minimum qualifications to teach course

See attached

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone

Sigal Rubin, rubins@fau.edu; 561-297-4287

List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course

Department of Political Science and Department of Philosophy

Approved by		***Date***
Department Chair	Kyn Mder	1/15/26
College Curriculum Chair	Sigal Rubin	1/16/2026
College Dean	Naelys Luna	3/6/26
UUPC Chair	Korey Sorge	3-30-26
Undergraduate Studies Dean	Dan Mecroff	3-30-26
UFS President		
Provost		

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

Proposed New Course

CJL 4410 – Criminal Law

Minimum qualifications to teach the course:

A master's or terminal degree in law, criminology, or criminal justice. Additional qualifications that may be considered alongside or in place of traditional academic qualifications can include professional experience working in the field of law (e.g. for a law firm, prosecutor's office, public defender's office, or the courts) as well as relevant licensures and certifications, given the applied nature of the law.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

CJL 4410
Criminal Law
3 Credit(s)
Fall 2026 - 1 Full Term

Instructor Information

Frank de la Torre, J.D.
Email: fdelat1@fau.edu

Office: SO 101 (Online Instructor)
Office Hours: Sunday through Saturday online by appointment. All email messages shall be answered within 24 hours of receipt.
Phone: 954-294-9381

TA Name:
Office:
Office Hours:
Telephone:
Email:

Course Description

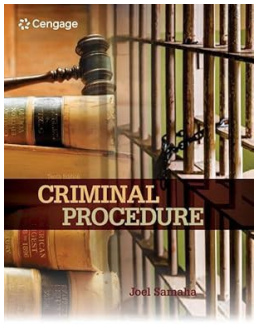
Criminal Law
The course introduces students to the main principals of American Criminal Law. The course examines the basic concepts of criminal law, and the essential elements of a crime.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Instructional Method

Fully Online Class
100% of the course is delivered online.

Required Texts/Materials



Criminal LAW
ISBN: 978 0 357 93549 1
Publisher: Cengage Learning
Edition: 10th
By: Gardner & Anderson

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recall basic concepts of Criminal Law.
2. Know essential elements of a crime.
3. Describe the law governing the use of force.
4. Know legal defenses for criminal acts.
5. Explain the different forms of punishment for violating the criminal law
6. Understand crimes against persons including homicide, and sexual battery.
7. Know crimes against property including theft, robbery, and burglary.
8. Explain White collar crime, Cybercafe and Commercial crime.

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

Florida Atlantic University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative to:

- Establish and implement academic standards.
- Establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class.
- Recommend disciplinary action for students whose behavior may be judged as disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct University Regulation 4.007.

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Course Evaluation Method

Grading Criteria: Your grade will be based on the below grading criteria.

Student Introduction and Syllabus & Course Agreement: Not graded.

You will post an introduction in the student introduction discussion board (and reply to at least two others' posts) and complete a syllabus and course agreement.

Discussion Boards (total 20%)

Students are expected to participate in all online discussions. Questions or topics will be posted AS NOTED ON THE SYLLABUS. The discussion boards are designed to explore the contents of the class and develop your collaborative skills. Discussions are graded upon content quality and frequency. You are required to post at least two separate responses during each graded thread (Mon.-Sun.). One of your posts should include your discussion response followed by one comment to other students' posts. Discussions will close each week on Sunday at 11:59 PM EST. /the quality of your post should be "high quality". Please refer to the below to see discussion quality measurements:

1. High Quality Post: Your contribution to each topic indicates your mastery of the materials assigned. Your responses might integrate multiple views and/ or provide value for other participant's responses to your thread. You provide evidence that you are reading the assigned materials and other students' posts and are responding accordingly. You know the facts and are able to analyze them and handle conceptual ideas while providing your own interesting interpretations.

   Examples:

   1. Continuing discussions by adding additional information
   2. Elaborating on previous comments from others
   3. Presenting explanations of concepts or methods to help a fellow student
   4. Presenting reasons for or against a topic in pervasive fashion
   5. Sharing personal experiences that relate to the topic
   6. Include proper citations and references that provided support for your post

2. Medium Quality Post: You have meaningful interaction with other students' posts. Your post demonstrates some confidence and states "I agree" or "I disagree" and includes a thorough explanation as to why. You introduce an argument that adds to the discussion; however, your post lacks a bit of structure and rambles rather than making a clear and comprehensive argument. Your post wasn't proof read and lacks proper grammar and punctuation.

3. Low Quality Post: You make trivial comments without adding any new thought to the discussion. You simply agree or disagree but do not add further content to the discussion.

DISCUSSION RULES:

1. Expression of individual opinions and free discussion is encouraged in this class.
2. This demands tolerance on your part for those opinions which you disagree.
3. Tolerance of opinions does not mean acceptance of prejudicial or demeaning remarks. Personally demeaning remarks or inappropriate remarks will not be tolerated.

This includes remarks that are racially and /or sexually offensive.

1. Students who post inappropriate comments will be dealt with individually. If the behavior continues the student will be blocked from posting and will meet with the instructor and the division director to show cause why they should not be expelled from the course.
2. INITIAL POST: Your initial post is due by Thursday @ 11:59 PM of the week that it's due. Late posts will be penalized as follows and are in addition to any other deductions:

Friday – 10%reduction

Saturday – 15% reduction

Sunday – 20% reduction

Course Essay (total 20%)

One 5 page paper will be based on the material presented in class including scientific studies case law and federal and state statutes. Outside web sites, and material may be used.

Course Examinations (total 60%)

Three examinations will be based on readings, lectures, homework, and class discussions. The exams will include multiple choice, true/false and/or short answer questions. Answers will be evaluated based on content in terms of accuracy of information and ability to analyze the issues. Good answers will demonstrate that you have read and understood the chapters, and actively participated in classroom discussions. Exams will be taken online in the Canvas Learning Management System. Test will be timed. No make-up exams are given.

The instructor will calculate your grade based on the following weighted distribution:

Assessment	Total Points	Percentage (%)
1 Course Essay Worth up to 100 points	100	20%
2 Discussion Boards • Worth up to 100 points each.	300	20%
4 Exams • Worth up to 300 points each.	200	60%
TOTAL:	600	100%

Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage (%)
A	94 – 100%
A-	90 – 93%
B+	87 – 89%
B	83 – 86%
B-	80 – 82%
C+	77 – 79%
C	73 – 76%
C-	70 – 72%
D+	67 – 69%
D	63 – 66%
D-	60 – 62%
F	0 – 59%

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

Attendance Policy Statement

Students are expected to attend all their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Religious Accommodation Policy Statement

In accordance with the rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs regarding admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. University Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances, sets forth this policy for FAU and may be accessed on the FAU website at www.fau.edu/regulations.

Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the executive director of The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University's established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination.

Time Commitment Per Credit Hour

For traditionally delivered courses, not less than one (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction each week for fifteen (15) weeks per Fall or Spring semester, and a minimum of two (2) hours of out-of-class student work for each credit hour. Equivalent time and effort are required for Summer Semesters, which usually have a shortened timeframe. Fully Online courses, hybrid, shortened, intensive format courses, and other non-traditional modes of delivery will demonstrate equivalent time and effort.

Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Letter Grade
A	94 - 100%
A-	90 - 93%
B+	87 - 89%
B	83 - 86%
B-	80 - 82%
C+	77 - 79%
C	73 - 76%
C-	70 - 72%
D+	67 - 69%
D	63 - 66%
D-	60 - 62%
F	Below 60

Grade Appeal Process

You may request a review of the final course grade when you believe that one of the following conditions apply:

• There was a computational or recording error in the grading.

• The grading process used non-academic criteria.

• There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.

University Regulation 4.002 of the University Regulations contains information on the grade appeals process

Policy on Make-up Tests, Late work, and Incompletes

Relief will only be given: if the student has a University approved excuse.

Late Assignments Policy: Late assignments will be accepted only if the student has a University accepted excuse.

Make up Policy for Tests: Make up will be allowed if based on a University accepted excuse.

Extra credit: Individual extra credit opportunities shall not be given. The entire class will be given an extra credit opportunity. This exercise will be a class project and will involve class participation in the SPOT survey near the end of the semester. More information will be announced at a later date.

Special Course Requirements

- **Operating System**
    1. A computer that can run Mac OSX or Win XP or higher
- **Peripherals**
    1. A backup option should be available to minimize the loss of work. This can be an external hard drive, a USB drive, cloud storage, or your folder on the FAU servers.
- **Software**
    1. Please visit the Students tab in Canvas located at the top of each Canvas page for LMS compatibility with your computer. Make sure your Internet browser is compatible and that you have all the recommended plug-ins installed.
    2. Other software may be required for specific learning module and/or modules, but the links to download and install it will be provided within the applicable module and/or modules. You may also need headphones with a microphone for Canvas Collaborate sessions.

Required Technical Skill

To be successful in this course you should be familiar with and be able to execute the following technological skills:

- Creating and posting to a discussion board, blog, or Wiki
- Taking a test through Canvas
- Attaching documents
- Copy and paste functions
- Microsoft Office tools: Word, PowerPoint, Excel
- Searching the FAU library and websites

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

AI Policy

- **AI Flexible:** The use of AI to assist in work assigned in this specific course is permitted only for specific assignments as indicated by the instructor. Use must be properly documented and cited per instructor guidelines (https://fau.edu/ai/citation).

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual therapy, group therapy, and crisis services, to name a few - offered tohelp improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to http://www.fau.edu/counseling/

Student Support Services and Online Resources

- Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS)
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- FAU Libraries
- Office of Information Technology Helpdesk
- Center for Global Engagement
- Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI)
- Student Accessibility Services
- Student Athlete Success Center (SASC)
- Testing and Certification
- Test Preparation
- University Academic Advising Services

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

The CTL has a variety of FREE TUTORING and other academic support services to help you succeed in your courses. You are encouraged to build your academic support team early in the term and meet with your team regularly. At the CTL, you can practice difficult course content, develop skills, and learn academic success strategies -- in person and online. Learn more about FAU academic support at **www.fau.edu/ctl**.

Artificial Intelligence Preamble

FAU recognizes the value of generative AI in facilitating learning. However, output generated by artificial intelligence (AI), such as written words, computations, code, artwork, images, music, etc., for example, is drawn from previously published materials and is not your own original work.

FAU students are not permitted to use AI for any course work unless explicitly allowed to do so by the instructor of the class for a specific assignment. **[Policy 12.16 Artificial Intelligence]**

Class policies related to AI use are decided by the individual faculty. Some faculty may permit the use of AI in some assignments but not others, and some faculty may prohibit the use of AI in their course entirely. In the case that an instructor permits the use of AI for some assignments, the assignment instructions will indicate when and how the use of AI is permitted in that specific assignment. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the instructor's expectations for each assignment in each course. When AI is authorized, the student is also responsible and accountable for the content of the work. AI may generate inaccurate, false, or exaggerated information. Users should approach any generated content with skepticism and review any information generated by AI before using generated content as-is.

If you are unclear about whether or not the use of AI is permitted, ask your instructor before starting the assignment.

Failure to comply with the requirements related to the use of AI may constitute a violation of the **Florida Atlantic Code of Academic Integrity, Regulation 4.001.**

Proper Citation: If the use of AI is permitted for a specific assignment, then use of the AI tool must be properly documented and cited. For more information on how to properly cite the use of AI tools, visit **https://fau.edu/ai/citation**

Course Topical Outline

Course Schedule

Date Topic Assignments

Week of 8/24 Chapter 1 Criminal Law Purpose, Scope & Sources

Week of 8/31 Chapter 2 Jurisdiction

Week of 9/7 Chapter 3 Essential Elements of a Crime

Week of 9/14 Chapter 4 Criminal Liability & Chapter 5 Capacity to Commit a Crime

Week of 9/21 Review for Test 1 & Test 1

Week of 9/28 Chapter 6 The Law Governing the Use of Force

Week of 10/5 Chapter 7 Criminal Defenses

Week of 10/12 Chapter 8 Criminal Punishments and Chapter 9 Public Order Crimes

Week of 10/19 **Review for** Test 2 & Test 2

Week of 10/26 Chapter10 Homicide & Chapter 11 Assault & Battery

Course Essay opens Course Essay opens & closes

Week of 11/2 Chapter 12 Sexual Battery

Week of 11/9 Review for Test 3 and Test 3

Week of 11/16 Chapter 13 Theft

Week of 11/23 Chapter 14 Robbery Burglary
& Chapter 15 White Collar Crime

Week of 11/30 **Review for Test 4**

Week of 12/10 Test 4 opens & Closes 12/13

Title IX Statement

In any case involving allegations of sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report the matter to the University Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX (OCR9). If University faculty become aware of an allegation of sexual misconduct, they are expected to report it to OCR9. If a report is made, someone from OCR9 and/or Campus Victim Services will contact you to make you aware of available resources including support services, supportive measures, and the University's grievance procedures. More information, including contact information for OCR9, is available at **https://www.fau.edu/ocr9/title-ix/**. You may also contact Victim Services at **victimservices@fau.edu** or 561-297-0500 (ask to speak to an Advocate) or schedule an appointment with a counselor at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) by calling 561-297-CAPS.