

**Hagerstown Community College**  
**MASTER SYLLABUS DOCUMENT**  
**COURSE: ADJ 203: Criminal Law, 3 credits**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Andrew B. Kramer, M.A., J.D.

**SEMESTER/YEAR:** Fall 2016 - Classes begin on August 29, 2016 and end on December 16, 2016.

**MEETING TIME/PLACE:** BSH 101 on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

**CONTACT INFO:** Cell (301) 331-8770 or for text messages. If you are going to be late to class, please send me a text

**OFFICE LOCATION:** BSH Building, Room 142

**Email:** [abkramer@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:abkramer@hagerstowncc.edu)

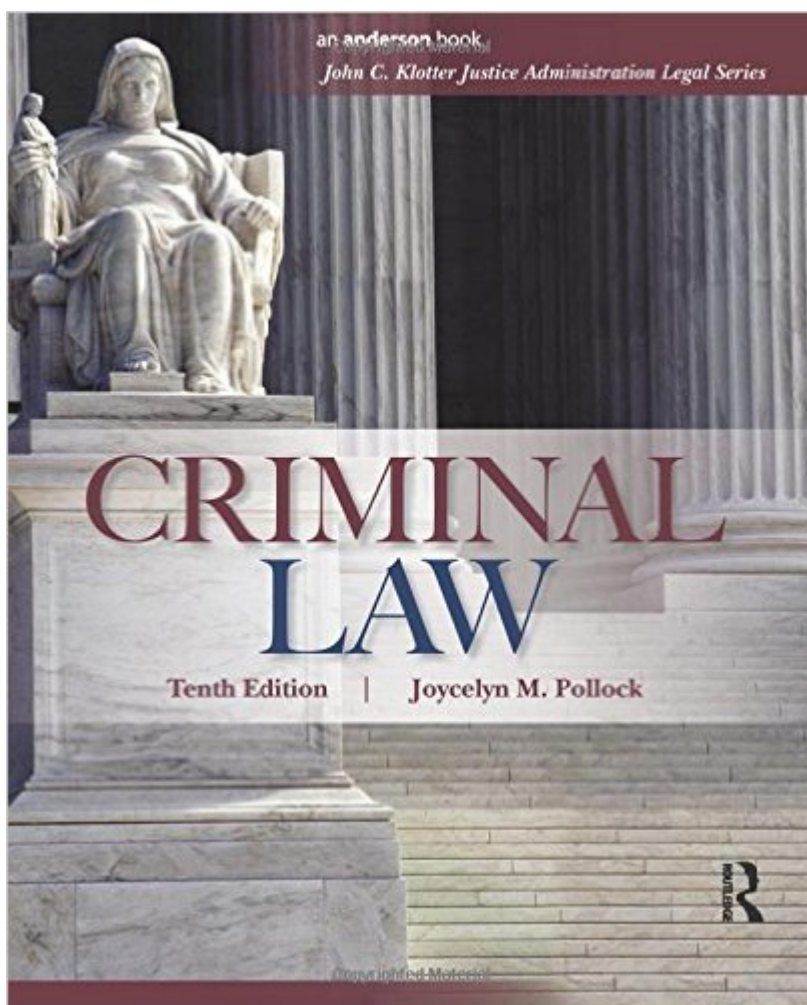
This course is posted on Moodle and you the student are expected to visit Moodle and your email often. I will be posting info on Moodle that will assist you in this course. So, please check.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a study of substantive criminal law as applied to local, state, and federal systems. Court decisions are used to address various sources and types of criminal law.

This is a sophomore level class and you should have taken ADJ 101 prior to this. Also this class will be doing added reading, writing and analyzing. I hope to make this class, interesting, educational and fun, but my classes are not spectator sports. I value your input and your opinions. The success of the class will rely on your willingness to participate.

**Come prepared to get involved, learn, discuss and have a good time.**



### TEXTBOOK:

Criminal Law, Pollock, J., Elsevier Science Ltd., 2012,  
ISBN 978-1-45557-3052-0

This is what the book looks like. You can get this book at the bookstore, and online (cheaper). You can rent the book or buy a used one. Remember you will use this book for this class and then sell it back. Pay as little as possible. Use wisdom when making your purchase.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will be able to:

1. **Understand** the general concepts of criminal law, including intent, conduct, and the law of crimes and defenses.
2. **Describe** the structure of the courts and their jurisdictional limitations.
3. **Examine and analyze** the elements of particular crimes and to disseminate between misdemeanors, felonies, and violent felonies.
4. **Develop** of a realistic view of the most common court activities in criminal cases and explore the respective roles of prosecutor and defense counsel.

### **Total Hours of Coursework:**

To earn one academic credit at HCC, students are required to complete a minimum of 37.5 clock hours (45 fifty-minute “academic” hours) of coursework per semester. Those hours of coursework may be completed through a combination of hours within the classroom and hours outside the classroom. Certain courses may require more than the 37.5 minimum hours of coursework per credit.

For most classes, students should expect to do at least 2 hours of coursework outside of class for each hour of in-class coursework.

### **ACCOUNTING FOR CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENT**

*For face-to-face class:*

Assignment/Assessment	Clock Hours	Explanation
In-class instruction	37.5	Time spent in class
Assigned readings & sample problems	57	Reading, note-taking, practicing sample problems, etc.
Quizzes	15	Study time plus time to complete quizzes
Exams	17	Study time plus time to complete exams
Final Project	8	Research, writing, presentation, etc.
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>134.5</b>	

**COURSE CONTENT OBJECTIVES:** The student will, at the conclusion of this course, be able to:

1. Understand the origin of the criminal law and its function in society
2. Understand the components of crime and criminal responsibility, including criminal intent & action
3. Understand accomplice liability
4. Understand the elements of specific crimes at common law
5. Understand basic defenses to criminal liability
6. Distinguish categories of crime
7. Understand the difference between felonies and misdemeanors.
8. Describe basic criminal procedure and the landmark constitutional cases that impact it.
9. Describe the trial process in the Maryland District and Circuit Courts.

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES:**

The student will be given four (4) quizzes and two examinations during the semester. The four quizzes will cover subject matter up to the point of the quiz each valued at 50 points each. There will be a *midterm and a final exam*.

Regular attendance and class participation are essential as lecture material is developed from various sources and will not be limited to material from the text. Accordingly, quizzes and examinations will include lecture material and reading assignments.

Make-up examinations and quizzes will be administered in accordance with HCC policy.

### **Grade Criteria**

4 quizzes (valued at)      50 pts      (200)

Midterm Exam              300 pts

Final Exam                300 pts

Student Project;            300pts

Attendance/Participation 150pts    (10 points per class)

### **Total Value for Semester: 1250**

NOTE: All exams will be given at the HCC Testing Center. You will have from Monday of the testing week till Friday of the testing week to complete the exams. There are *no makeup testing days*. If you miss the exam you will get a zero for the test. Zeros are very hard on your grade. So, make every effort NOT to miss quizzes and exams!

Missed examinations will not be rescheduled. Rescheduling of examinations is often unfair to other students.

Footnote: The two quizzes will be open book and open note, so it is imperative that you are in class to take notes or get with someone to have them take notes for you.

**STUDENT PROJECT;** Case Study, you will be assigned a case to study and review. This will require you to write a five (5) page summary on the case. The format will be MLA. More details will be given as you get closer to the project date.

**Attendance and Participation:** Class starts on time with the taking of attendance. The expectation is that students attend all classes and be on time. If for some reason you are required to arrive late, please find a seat without disturbing the class discussion. Class attendance contributes significantly to academic success. Students who attend classes regularly tend to earn higher grades and have higher passing rates in courses. Failure to attend will negatively affect your grade. In case of absence due to emergency (illness, death in the family, accident), or

participation in official College functions, it is the student's responsibility to confer with the instructor about the absence or expected absence as soon as possible. It is also the student's responsibility to make up work and assignments missed. Participation in class discussions is encouraged and expected. You cannot participate if you are not here, and simply being here is not conducive to participating. There will be material covered in the lecture not presented in the text. If you arrive more than 5 minutes late or are leaving class early, you will only receive credit for a partial class. The instructor is receptive to discussing the decision regarding partial or full credit for a late or missed class. Students will earn full credit for each class attended starting with the third class; Fifty percent of the value will be awarded for late arrivals or leaving early. Productive participation will also earn the student 1 additional point per class. Productive participation means that the student is prepared to participate intelligently and academically in any class discussion that develops. Students may earn up to 40 points through attendance and participation. The college attendance policy can be found in the 2015-2016 catalog at <http://catalog.hagerstowncc.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=87>.

**NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to withdraw officially from any class, which he/she ceases to attend. Failure to do so will result in the recording of an "F" grade.**

Regular attendance and class participation are essential as lecture material was developed from various sources and will not be found in the required text. Accordingly, examinations will include lecture material and reading assignments.

**THE COURSE MATERIAL AND ASSESSMENTS:** Remember that the course material on which you will be assessed will always be based on a combination of the readings and the lectures. **Your best chance for being prepared for your quizzes, exams and projects is to ensure that you both do the reading AND come to class.**

**ATHLETES:** You are required to attend all classes unless you have a prior arranged absence do to an athletic event. I will be in constant contact with the athletic department regarding your attendance and grades. You will be required to make arrangements prior to all deadlines for assignments or quizzes or exams. Failure to do so will result in zero for the exam. There is a no make-up policy or late turn ins if you fail to make the appropriate arrangements.

All assignments including bonus work are due at the start of class as assigned. Late work, **if accepted**, will be grade penalized. If you have had prior problems with emailing or printing anything from home, I suggest that your work be saved to a flash drive which you can bring to class for download of the assigned task.

**FOOD/DRINK:** The instructor has the right to control what, if any, food/drink items may be brought into the classroom. Previously this has not been an issue but currently students have determined that this is a right thereby creating conditions within the classroom with trash, spills, and noisily eating/drinking items that annoyed both the instructor and fellow students. Please keep this in mind or permission to have food and drink items within the classroom will be withdrawn.

**CELL PHONES:** All cell phones must be placed on vibrate or silent mode and put away at the commencement of class. Use of cell phones and text messaging are disruptive to the instructor and your fellow students, so please be courteous. If you are unable to maintain acceptable decorum within the learning environment, you will be asked and expected to leave class. You are asked to be considerate of other students so please do not be offended when the instructor requests that you put items away or stop talking so others can hear.

**LAPTOPS/NOTEBOOKS/IPADS, etc.:** The use of a laptop, etc. to take notes is permitted. I will be asking you to use your devices to conduct research while in group sessions.

The HCC Honor Code Policy is in effect in this class. The Student Handbook is available in the Student Activities Office and contains the honor code policy and consequences for any violation.

**NOTE:** The instructor reserves the right to modify the course content and evaluation (test) process, as he deems necessary. The instructor also reserves the right to deviate from the syllabus, as he deems necessary. If you have questions, contact me via email and schedule an appointment. Please do not wait until the last minute to ask questions about something you may not fully understand.

### Bonus Points – Accumulation and Adding to Final Score

The grading system is based on the total number of points that the student has actually earned at the end of the semester divided by the total number of points the student had the opportunity to earn. Bonus points are simply “extras”. Periodically throughout the semester opportunities are provided where students may augment their semester end total number of accumulated points by completing assignments to earn bonus points. Past students have “elected” to not complete required assignments hoping that the bonus assignment scores will offset this loss of points. Their reasoning for not completing required assignments could be anything from their dislike of the required assignment, their forgetfulness, neglect or perhaps even laziness in completing the required assignment. Bonus points will not be added to the end of semester total points earned by the student unless all course requirements have been met {exams, and project}. This is not negotiable so please do not ask. Additionally unless prior arrangements have been made bonus assignments will not be accepted without your class attendance. If printer is broke, out of ink or paper and you are afraid you will run into printing problems here on campus then you may email me your bonus and I will print it but it must be received before class starts.

**NOTE:** There is no guarantee that bonus points will be available in any given course or semester. Please confirm with me before making assumptions.

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** Students may receive reasonable accommodations if they have a diagnosed disability and present appropriate documentation. Students seeking accommodations are required to contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) office as early as possible. Students may contact a DSS staff member for an appointment at [dss@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:dss@hagerstowncc.edu) or at 240-500-2530.