



**South Portland, Maine 04106**

**Criminal Justice Department**

**Title: Substantive Criminal Law**  
**Credit Hours: 3**

**Catalog Number: CJUS- 215-T1**  
**Total Contact Hours: 45**

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**Instructor: Bruce M. Merrill**

**Class Schedule: Tue.-Thur. Afternoon**  
**4:30 PM - 5:45 PM, Howe Hall 105**

**Contact Information: Phone: 741-5551**  
**Email: bmerrill@smccme.edu**

**Office Location: 101 Howe Hall**

**Hours: Flexible and by appointment**

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**Course Syllabus**

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the history of criminal law and the necessary elements which must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt in order to secure a plea of guilty or conviction following trial. It will also distinguish civil from criminal law. Following the evolution of the common law to legislatively created statutory law, the course will conduct a comprehensive review of Maine's Revised Criminal Code, as found in Title 17-A of the Maine Revised Statutes.

**Course Objectives:**

After successfully completing the course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the evolution and basis for modern criminal law and its distinction from civil law.
2. Understand the elements of various crimes that must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in order to obtain convictions in criminal court.
3. Understand the various "states of mind" that are involved in most criminal conduct.
4. Understand the recognized defenses to criminal conduct.
5. Understand what police and prosecutors must prove, by way of evidence, at trial, in order to secure convictions from defendants.
6. Utilize the Maine Criminal Code quickly and effectively to determine whether conduct that has occurred can be deemed to be criminal in nature and charged as such.
7. To analyze a fact pattern and determine what is the most readily provable crime.
8. Discuss what constitutes "evidence," and the different types of evidence that can be introduced at a criminal trial.

**Text:** *Maine Criminal Statutes*, John N. Ferdico, Swan Island Press, Publisher, 2015-2016 Edition.

**During the course of the semester you may also be given handouts and/or assignments from various on-line sites.**

**Reading Assignments:**

Students will be required to read fact patterns given to them and the materials as outlined below **BEFORE** the assigned class and be prepared to engage in in-depth discussions of the materials during class. You should take notes on the materials as you are reading, as it will help you better understand the materials and prepare for class. Again, please be sure to have the reading completed **BEFORE** class. Do not wait until half-way through the semester to purchase your book or begin the reading. You will not be successful.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	01/19 - T	Introduction
2	01/21 - Th	Fundamentals of Criminal Law
3	01/26 - T	Criminal Liability
4	01/28 - Th	Elements of Crime
5	02/02 - T	Defenses and Affirmative Defenses
6	02/04 -Th	Sentencing
7	02/09 -T	Offenses of General Applicability
8	02/11 -Th	Offenses Against the Person
9	02/16 -T	Offenses Against the Person
10	02/18 -Th	Sex Assaults
11	02/23 -T	Kidnapping and Criminal Restraint
12	02/25 -Th	Theft
13	03/01 -T	Burglary and Criminal Trespass
14	03/03 -Th	Computer Crimes
15	03/08 -T	Falsification in Official Matters
16	03/10 -Th	Offenses Against the Public Order/ <b>MID-TERM</b>
17	03/15 -T	<b>NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK</b>
18	03/17- Th	<b>NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK</b>
19	03/22-T	Offenses Against the Family
20	03/24-Th	Bribery and Corrupt Practices
21	03/29-T	Take Home Exercise
22	03/31-Th	Robbery
23	04/05-T	Forgery and Related Offenses
24	04/07-Th	Arson and Other Property Destruction
25	04/12-T	Prostitution and Public Indecency
26	04/14-Th	Take Home Exercise

27	04/19-T	Fraud
28	04/21-Th	Unlawful Gambling
29	04/26-T	Criminal Use of Explosives and Related Crimes
30	04/28-Th	Weapons
31	05/03-T	Drugs
32	05/05-Th	Drugs
33	05/10-T	Operating Under the Influence
34	05/12-Th	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>

*This schedule is flexible and will change to meet the needs of the class.*

**Student Evaluation, Grading and Attendance:**

**Course Grades**

	A	93-100	A-	90-92.9	
B+	87-89.9	B	83-86.9	B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9	C	73-76.9	C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9	D	63-66.9		
F	0-62.99				

“I” Grade: A **temporary** grade of “I” may be given when a student has, *due to extraordinary circumstances*, failed to complete all required course work by the end of the semester. This assumes that the student has made a consistent and persistent effort up to the point the “circumstances” occurred and that most course work has been completed. The remaining work must be completed and a new grade submitted **by the mid-point of the semester following receipt of the “I” grade. An “I” grade which is not changed during this period automatically becomes a permanent “F” grade.**

Your final grade for this course will be based on the following:

Your final grade in this course will be based upon the following: **class participation (25%)**; quizzes (25%); mid-term examination (25%) and final examination (25%).

**All students should be prepared to spend a minimum of two hours on out of class preparation for each hour of classroom instruction. This preparation will include, but not be limited to, review of lecture notes, completion of reading assignments, studying of course materials and completion of class projects/papers, as assigned.**

Dates for Exams will be as set forth above. **Quizzes will be announced in sufficient time for preparation and study.** Quizzes and Exams will be based upon the material in the book **and** additional material covered in class. **No make-up quizzes or exams will be given, for any reason.**

**Written Assignments/Exercises must be typed** and are due at the beginning of the next class after being assigned. Students will type their name and date the assignment was assigned on the first line. The second line will identify the specific assignment. Assignments will be

graded Pass/Fail and returned to the student. **Spelling counts!** Please be sure to follow the page limitations for each assignment. **Late submissions and submissions not meeting the guidelines will not be accepted.**

### **Attendance**

In order to meet the course goals and objectives, **students must attend classes.** An attendance sheet will be distributed at the beginning of each class and it is the responsibility of the student to make sure that s/he has signed the attendance sheet during each class.

More than three (3) absences from class, **regardless of the reason(s)**, will result in a two (2)-point deduction from a student's final grade.

Missing **three (3) consecutive classes** will result in a **Last Day Attended** notification to Student Enrollment (unless prior authorization is obtained).

### **Tardiness**

Being late to class three (3) times (defined as arriving after the instructor has begun lecturing), **regardless of the reason(s)**, will constitute one (1) absence.

Students arriving late will enter the classroom **through the rear door** so as **not to disturb the rest of the class.** If a student must leave class early, the same rear door should be used.

### **Add-Drop Policy**

Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, *i.e.*, 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

### **Withdrawal Policy**

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the fall and spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses. **The last day to withdraw from this class for the Spring 2016 Semester is Tuesday, April 19th, before 5:00 p.m.** To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Enrollment Service Center (no phone calls, please). The designation "W" will appear on the transcript after a student has officially withdrawn. A course withdrawal is an uncompleted course and may adversely affect financial aid eligibility. Failure to attend or ceasing to attend class does not constitute withdrawal from the course. **There is no refund associated with a withdrawal.**

### **Other Important Information:**

#### **End-of-Course Evaluation**

In order to gain access to final course grades, students **must** complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through

the student portal site. Students can access the course evaluation report beginning two weeks before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs 24 hours after the last day of classes each semester. Instructors will announce when the online course evaluation is available.

### **Plagiarism Statement**

Adherence to ethical academic standards is obligatory. **Cheating is a serious offense**, whether it consists of taking credit for work done by another person or doing work for which another person will receive credit. **Taking and using the ideas or writings of another person without clearly and fully crediting the source is plagiarism and violates the academic code as well as the Student Code of Conduct.** If it is suspected that a student in any course in which s/he is enrolled has knowingly committed such a violation, the faculty member should refer the matter to the College's Disciplinary Officer and appropriate action will be taken under the Student Code of Conduct. Sanctions may include suspension from the course and a failing grade in the course. Students have the right to appeal these actions to the Disciplinary Committee under the terms outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

### **SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy**

Students can print 100 pages per semester for free. If you print over 100 pages, you will be charged 10 cents per page to your Beacon Bucks account. Left-over pages will roll over to the following semester but will zero out at the end of the academic year. A pilot project tracking public printing has shown that this amount of free printing meets the needs of the vast majority of students. The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all public printers (*i.e.*, those in general access labs, library printers, the LAC, and technology labs). Each time you log into the system, the print station displays the remaining print quota. Once the printing quota has been exceeded, users will be charged \$0.10 per page on their Beacon Bucks accounts. Color printouts will be charged at 11-page units. This means each color printout will count as 11 pages toward the quota and cost \$1.10. Students can add money to their cards using a credit card online.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

Southern Maine Community College (College) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation and/or preference, disability, age or marital, parental or veteran's status in its programs and activities.

### **ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act):**

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call [207-741-5798](tel:207-741-5798). If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodations.

## **Course Policies:**

### **Computers:**

The use of laptop computers is only permitted for note taking. Students will **not** use the Internet during class unless directed to do so by the instructor. **Students found to be in violation of this policy will be prohibited from using the computer in class. The instructor will periodically check laptop note taking.**

### **Cell phones:**

Cell phones will be turned off or the ringer silenced during class. Any student wishing to use a cell phone must exit the classroom to do so. **Texting during class is prohibited. Cell phones must be turned off (not just silenced) during quizzes and exams.** During quizzes and tests, the professor reserves the right to request that all students put their cell phones on the front desk to avoid distractions or use during the test.

### **Food/Beverages:**

Beverages are permitted; eating of food is not permitted. Please properly dispose of your beverage container when you are finished. If you spill it, wipe it up.

### **Student Code of Conduct:**

All students are expected to be aware of and conform to the Student Code of Conduct. The Code can be found in the Student Handbook: The Compass.

### **Key to Success!!!**

All students are encouraged to periodically review and reflect on the “Key to Academic Success”.

#### **Key to Academic Success!!!**

1. I will attend class regularly and arrive to class on time.
2. I will treat others with courtesy, respect and how I would like to be treated.
3. I will bring all required materials to class (*i.e.* notebooks, workbook, Textbook, assignments due)
4. I will be attentive in class.
5. I will participate in whole class and group discussions.
6. I will complete my assignments on time.
7. I will ask questions when I do not understand the material.
8. I will take notes in class.
9. I will study for quizzes and examinations.
10. I will be honest (avoiding plagiarism, cheating)
11. I will reflect on how I could make improvements to my learning.
12. I will seek out my advisor if I am having difficulty with my course(s).
13. I will recognize this course syllabus as a contract that I must abide by to ensure my academic success.