

North Hennepin Community College

PLEG 2310: Criminal Law and Procedure

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:

This course requires the following prerequisite

PLEG 1111 - Introduction to Law and Paralegal Studies

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course presents a study of the substantive and procedural aspects of criminal law and the role of the paralegal working in the area of criminal defense or criminal prosecution. Students will study the general principles of criminal liability, analysis of particular crimes, parties to crimes, and the substantive defense to crimes. Constitutional safeguards and procedures from arrest through trial, sentencing, punishment, and appeal are also studied. This course also examines the ethical considerations relating to criminal law and procedure.

Prerequisite: PLEG 1111

Please Note: All Paralegal program and course prerequisites are enforced. This course may not be used as a substitute for SOC 1710 in any NHCC programs which include SOC 1710 as a required course.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/25/2008 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. a. State and federal court systems
- b. Essential criminal elements
- c. Crimes against the person
- d. Crimes against property
- e. Crimes against the public
- f. Parties to crime
- g. Defenses--factual, statutory and constitutional
- h. Rules of Criminal Procedure
- i. Searches, seizures and arrests
- j. Interrogations and other law enforcement practices
- k. Pre-trial and trial procedures
- l. Sentencing and appeals
- m. Ethics and professional responsibility

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the paralegal and of the lawyer in a criminal law practice (ELO 1, Program Goal 1)
2. Demonstrate and illustrate a practical familiarity with selected rules of criminal procedure (ELO 2, Program Goal 1).
3. Demonstrate and illustrate a practical familiarity with the elements of various crimes and the defenses available (ELO 2, Program Goal 1)
4. Prepare selected documents for a criminal case (ELO 2, Program Goal 1, Program Goal 3, Program Goal 6)
5. Undertake and complete basic pretrial, trial and post-trial procedures. (ELO 2, Program Goal 6)
6. Demonstrate basic reasoning by deduction, by induction, and by analogy related to criminal matters (ELO 2, Program Goal 4).
7. Demonstrate an understanding of those ethical principles that govern a paralegals work in a criminal law practice (ELO 3, Program Goal 2).

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World--Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills--Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement--Including: Civic knowledge and involvement--campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.