

## COURSE SYLLABUS

<b>LAST REVIEW</b>	Spring 2021
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Criminal Law for the Paralegal
<b>COURSE NUMBER</b>	PRLG 0207
<b>DIVISION</b>	Social and Behavioral Sciences & Public Services
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Paralegal
<b>CIP CODE</b>	22.0302
<b>CREDIT HOURS</b>	3
<b>CONTACT HOURS/WEEK</b>	Class: 3
<b>PREREQUISITES</b>	PRLG 0121
<b>COURSE PLACEMENT</b>	Students must meet the correct placement measure for this course. Information may be found at: <a href="https://www.kckcc.edu/admissions/information/mandatory-evaluation-placement.html">https://www.kckcc.edu/admissions/information/mandatory-evaluation-placement.html</a>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the field of criminal law from the viewpoint of a representative. Theories of representation for the state/prosecution as well as for the defendant will be studied. Students will have the opportunity to apply the theory through model criminal cases.

### PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate the ability to identify case issues and analyze court opinions.
2. Explain basic procedural and substantive law concepts
3. Demonstrate clear and concise writing ability in preparation of office memoranda, client correspondence, and basic legal documents
4. Demonstrate ability to conduct legal interviewing, preliminary investigation and basic research
5. Evaluate scenarios relevant to ethical standards for paralegals in law office.

### Institutional Learning Outcomes

- Communication
- Computation and Financial Literacy
- Critical Reasoning
- Technology and Information Literacy
- Community and Civic Responsibility
- Personal and Interpersonal Skills

### TEXTBOOKS

<http://kckccbookstore.com/>

### METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.

### COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Foundations of Criminal Justice System

- A. Due Process
- B. Defining Crime for the Paralegal
- II. Elements of a Crime
  - A. Mens Rea and Actus Reus
  - B. Intent
  - C. Factors Negating Intent
  - D. Inchoate Offenses
- III. Burden of Proof
  - A. Beyond a Reasonable Doubt
  - B. Multiple Jurisdictions
  - C. Double Jeopardy
- IV. Chronology of a Prosecution
  - A. Grand Jury
  - B. Probable Cause
  - C. Paralegal as an aide to the Prosecutor
- V. Defenders
  - A. Right to Defense Counsel
  - B. Defense Counsel Tasks
  - C. Paralegal as an aide to the Defense
- VI. Pre-Trial Motions
  - A. Motion Practice
  - B. Issues decided before trial
- VII. Presenting the Case
  - A. Case Theory Development
  - B. Evidence
  - C. Opening Statement and Closing Arguments
- VIII. Day in Court
  - A. Judge vs. Jury
  - B. Paralegal duties during trial
- IX. Verdict
  - A. JNOV
  - B. New Trial
  - C. Sentencing
- X. Juvenile Justice System
  - A. Compared to Criminal System
  - B. Procedures
  - C. Paralegal as an aide to juvenile representative
- XI. Plea Bargains
  - A. Objectives
  - B. Paralegal's role in negotiation process
- XII. Evidence
- XIII. Paralegal Regulation and Ethics in Criminal Law

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

- A. CLO #1 The student shall be able to define crime and verbalize the requirements for a valid criminal law.
- B. CLO #2 The student shall be able to describe the classifications of crimes.
- C. CLO #3 The student shall be able to list and explain the major elements of a criminal offense as well as factors that may affect those elements.
- D. CLO #4 The student shall be able to demonstrate knowledge of the duties of defense counsel and the paralegals that assist them.

- E. CLO #5 The student shall be able to develop a case by gathering and processing evidence exhibits and witnesses and preparing opening statement and closing arguments.
- F. CLO #6 The student shall be able to explain the criminal trial process from pretrial through sentencing.

### **ASSESSMENT OF COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Student progress is evaluated through both formative and summative assessment methods. Specific details may be found in the instructor's course information document.

### **COLLEGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

*Student Handbook*

<https://www.kckcc.edu/files/docs/student-resources/student-handbook-and-code-of-conduct.pdf>

*College Catalog*

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/catalog/index.html>

*College Policies and Statements*

<https://www.kckcc.edu/about/policies-statements/index.html>

*Accessibility and Accommodations*

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/resources/student-accessibility-support-services/index.html>