

**PSCI 324 - Criminal Law and Procedure; Fall Semester, 2015;  
Tuesday's 7:41 – 10:30 p.m.**

**Instructor:** Nobie Walker, Hunt County District Attorney's Office  
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Available for Consultation Upon Request

**Text:** Annotated Criminal Laws of Texas 2015-2017  
Author: Diane Burch Beckham  
ISBN: 978-1-934973-52-3  
Publisher: Texas District and County Attorney's Association

Text can be ordered from the Texas District and County Attorney's Association:  
[www.tdcaa.com](http://www.tdcaa.com) or (512) 474-2436

**Course Description:** This course focuses on legal principles governing criminal law including culpability/mental state, defenses to criminal responsibility, punishments, offenses against persons and property, offenses against public order and decency, offenses against public health safety and morals, organized crime, and drug offenses. Additionally, the course will focus on criminal procedure principles including courts and criminal jurisdiction, habeas corpus, venue, arrests with/without warrants, search warrants, 4<sup>th</sup> amendment search and seizure issues, bail, grand jury proceedings, and indictments/informations.

**Course Objectives/Goals:** To give students a basic overview of criminal law and procedure and to expose students to the role and ethical obligations of Judges, Courts, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, and Peace Officers. Students should be able to demonstrate comprehension/understanding of these areas through class room discussion and test results. Students will also research legal issues/cases to be presented by the instructor then draft office briefs/memos concerning the issue.

**Assignments:** (the following is tentative and may be amended or modified as situations dictate)

September 1, 2015	Discuss syllabus, Text Book, and overview upcoming semester
September 8, 2015	Penal Code, Title 2 – General Principles of Criminal Responsibility
September 15, 2015	Penal Code, Titles 3, 5, & 7 – Punishments, Offenses Against The Person, Offenses Against Property
September 22, 2015	Penal Code, Chapter 49 – DWI; Controlled Substances Act – Drug Offenses
September 29, 2015	Exam #1
October 6, 2015	CCP, Chapter 11 – Habeas Corpus
October 13, 2015	CCP, Chapters 14 & 15 – Arrests with(out) Warrant
October 20, 2015	CCP, Chapter 18 – Search Warrants (4 <sup>th</sup> Amendment)

October 27, 2015	Exam #2
November 3, 2015	CCP, Chapters 19 & 20 – Grand Jury
November 10, 2015	CCP, Chapter 21 – Indictment and Information
November 17, 2015	CCP, Chapter 17 - Bail
November 24, 2015	Exam #3
December 1, 2015	CCP, Chapter 38 – Evidence in Criminal Actions
December 8, 2015	Final Examination

**Exams:** Exams will be multiple choice, short essay, and essay. The four (4) exams, (including the final) will be of equal value and make up 100% of the student’s overall grade. Questions for the exams will be taken from classroom discussion, your text, and writing assignments/research assigned in class. The final exam will not be comprehensive. The grading scale is as follows:

- A 90-100
- B 80-90
- C 70-80
- D 60-70
- F Below 60

**Student Conduct:** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from the Student Guide Handbook). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

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**Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: **The Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A & M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132, Phone Number (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax Number (903) 468-8148, Email Address – [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**