

CRIM 3385: Criminal Law

Fall 2026 Course Syllabus

Instructor Information

Instructor: Joseph Gay, Esq.

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Office: 331 Main Campus

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Meeting Information

Course Format: Online

Course Description

This course examines criminal law through the application of legal definitions, statutory elements, defenses, and penalties. Students will analyze criminal law using Texas statutes, the Model Penal Code, and relevant case law. The course also explores the philosophical and historical development of criminal law and criminal culpability.

Required Textbook and Course Materials

Gardner and Anderson. *Criminal Law* (10th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Cengage MindTap access is provided through the course and includes a free electronic version of the textbook.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the elements of crimes and defenses under Texas statutes, the Model Penal Code, and case law.
- Classify criminal offenses and articulate the penalties associated with various crimes.
- Compare culpable mental states when assigning criminal responsibility.
- Assess the influence of history and philosophy on current criminal laws.
- Evaluate the application of criminal law within other areas of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement and corrections.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through:

- Chapter quizzes
- Midterm and final examinations
- Cengage MindTap assignments
- Video case analyses
- Applied decision-making exercises

Grading Breakdown

- **Chapter Quizzes:** 30%
- **Midterm Exam:** 20%
- **Final Exam:** 20%
- **Video Case Assignments:** 15%
- **“You Decide” Assignments:** 15%

Total: 100%

Course Requirements and Expectations

Attendance and Participation

Students must also log in to Blackboard each week, complete the assigned readings, participate in required course activities, and submit all assignments by their posted deadlines.

Video Case Assignments

Video Case Assignments are completed through Cengage MindTap. Students must watch each assigned video in its entirety before answering the corresponding questions.

- Assignments are untimed.
- Each assignment is worth up to 100 points.
- Two attempts are permitted.
- The highest score will be recorded.
- Assignments are due each Sunday by **11:59 p.m.**
- Assignments will close automatically at the deadline.

“You Decide” Assignments

After completing the assigned readings and Video Case Assignment, students will complete a corresponding “You Decide” scenario that applies criminal-law concepts to a practical situation.

- Assignments are untimed.
- Each assignment is worth up to 100 points.
- Assignments are due each Sunday by **11:59 p.m.**
- Assignments will close automatically at the deadline.

Chapter Quizzes

Chapter Quizzes are completed through Cengage MindTap and consist of 25 multiple-choice questions.

- Each quiz is timed for 60 minutes.
- Only one attempt is permitted.
- Quizzes are due each Sunday by **11:59 p.m.**
- Quizzes will close automatically at the deadline.

Students should begin each quiz early enough to use the full 60-minute testing period before the quiz closes.

Midterm Exam

The Midterm Exam covers all course material presented through Week 7.

- The exam will be completed in Blackboard.
- Students will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.
- The exam is due no later than **Friday, October 9, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.**
- The exam will close automatically at the deadline.

Final Exam

The Final Exam covers course material presented after the Midterm Exam.

- The exam will be completed in Blackboard.
- Students will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.

- The exam will be available from **Monday, November 30, through Sunday, December 6, 2026.**
- The exam must be completed by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, December 6, 2026.**
- The exam will close automatically at the deadline.

Late Work

Assignments automatically close at 11:59 pm on their respective due dates and will not be reopened. Be proactive and get your work in early to avoid receiving a 0 as late work is not accepted.

Academic Integrity and Use of Artificial Intelligence

All work submitted in this course must be completed by the student and must represent the student's own knowledge, analysis, and writing.

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools—including ChatGPT and similar platforms—to create, complete, rewrite, or substantially revise course assignments is strictly prohibited. Unauthorized use of these tools constitutes academic misconduct and may result in disciplinary action consistent with university policy.

Students who are uncertain whether a particular technology or resource is permitted should consult the instructor before using it.

University Policies and Student Resources

This course follows all Texas A&M University–San Antonio policies related to:

- Academic accommodations
- Academic integrity and student conduct
- Harassment and discrimination
- Title IX
- Religious observances
- Military affairs
- Student support services

Students are encouraged to review the applicable university policies and make use of available academic and student-support resources whenever assistance is needed.

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Course Schedule: Fall 2026

Week	Dates	Chapters	Graded Assignments
Week 1	Aug 24-30	Chapter 1	N/A
Week 2	Aug 31-Sept 6	Chapter 2-3	All MindTap Assignments
Week 3	Sept 7-13	Chapter 4-5	All MindTap Assignments
Week 4	Sept 14-20	Chapter 6	All MindTap Assignments
Week 5	Sept 21-27	Chapter 7	All MindTap Assignments
Week 6	Sept 28-Oct 4	Chapters 8-9	All MindTap Assignments
Week 7	Oct 5-11	Chapters 1–8	Mid-Term Exam due by 11:59 pm Fri night Oct 9
Week 8	Oct 12-18	Chapter 10	All MindTap Assignments
Week 9	Oct 19-25	Chapter 11-12	All MindTap Assignments
Week 10	Oct 26-Nov 1	Chapters 13-14	All MindTap Assignments
Week 11	Nov 2-8	Chapter 15-16	All MindTap Assignments
Week 12	Nov 9-15	Chapter 17	All MindTap Assignments
Week 13	Nov 16-22	Chapters 18-19	All MindTap Assignments
Week 14	Nov 23-29	Thanksgiving Week	N/A; Prepare for Final Exam
Week 15	Nov 30-Dec 6	Final Exam	Final Exam due by 11:59 pm, Sunday, Dec 6

MindTap Assignments:

All MindTap assignments are due no later than **11:59 p.m. CT each Sunday**. Assignments are set to automatically close at the deadline and **cannot be reopened**. Please plan accordingly and avoid waiting until the last minute to complete your work.

Midterm Exam:

The Midterm Exam will be available from **Monday, October 5, through Friday, October 9**. The exam will automatically close at **11:59 p.m. CT on Friday, October 9**, and **will not be reopened** after the deadline.

Final Exam:

The Final Exam will be available from **Monday, Nov 30th - Sunday December 6**. The exam will automatically close at **11:59 p.m. CT on Sunday, Dec 6th**, and **will not be reopened** after the deadline.

Please mark these dates on your calendar now and plan to complete the assignments, Mid-Term, and Final well before the deadline. Waiting until the last minute may result in missing the opportunity to submit your exam if unexpected issues occur.