

**NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title:** Criminal Law I

**Course #:** CJS-211

**Course Description:** Three (3) Credits

Local, State and Federal Laws - development, application and enforcement

**Pre-requisite/Co-requisite:** None

**Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, each student will be able to distinguish the essential elements of a crime under federal and state law, and explain the formulation of specific local, state and federal offenses against persons, property, morals, order and justice. The course will emphasize the interrelationship between common law and present day statutory law.

**Outcomes:**

- Students who wish to enter the criminal justice field will be able to employ critical thinking skills and apply them to the main principles of American Criminal law.
- Identify and discuss the differences between federal and state laws and how they apply to the court system.
- Compare and contrast court opinions rendered, especially United States Supreme Court opinions, and apply them to criminal and civil actions.
- Facilitate student's entry into law enforcement by acknowledging the use and limitations of police power to maintain public order, the legal use of force by police officers in making a criminal arrest, and the possible civil and criminal repercussions of vicarious liability and poor decision making skills.
- Interpret the essential elements of today's modern criminal statutes from English Common Law.
- Differentiate between legal/illegal uses of force, and demonstrate a clear understanding of U.S. Amendments to the Constitution and how they apply to law enforcement.