Whether seeking a deeper knowledge of unfamiliar subject areas or looking to gain a comprehensive understanding of particular subjects, our catalog of Criminal Justice and Law courses will ensure students are prepared to take on a career in law enforcement, begin a paralegal program or get a better understanding of contracts and business law for a small business owner. These courses take an in-depth look at the American criminal justice systems alongside corrections, juvenile justice and law enforcement. Courses in contracts, torts, real estate and more offer future paralegals or pre-law students a tremendous foundation to begin their career. These convenient, self-paced courses also offer a great solution to small business owners where these complex topics can be most applicable.

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Introduction to Homeland Security
With the onset of terrorism and heightened threats both at home and abroad, Homeland Security is a growing, increasingly complex field within the Criminal Justice field. This class is designed to prepare successful students to work in various Homeland Security agencies at a local, state or federal level. Ideal for anyone entering law enforcement, private security or public administration, this course provides students with an overview of homeland security issues, threats and emergency management to ensure they understand the context within which their roles and responsibilities contribute to the overall effort to deter and mitigate against the effects of these new threats. This course provides an overview of the elements involved in the homeland security function, as well as the challenges critical infrastructure managers in government and industry can/will face while maintaining mission operations and staff accountability in the midst of multiple overlapping roles and responsibilities.

Introduction to Policing
Considering a career in law enforcement? Interested in the criminal justice system as a whole? This course offers students a window into the fascinating and difficult work of policing American cities from street to street. To give students the most in-depth look at policing possible, this course examines the history, structure, actions and strategies of American police. Students will explore a number of interesting topics including the structure and purpose of federal, state and local police forces, their inner-workings and interconnectivity as well as the various ways each individual force plays a role in the collective effort to keep American cities and streets safe. This course gives students an overview of the police and their mission. It examines the evolution of policing as well as methods, issues, and challenges to present-day policing. The course also looks at technology in the service of law enforcement and explores the future of policing.

Police Techniques
The requirements of all elements of law enforcement grow more and more technical every day. With new techniques developing all the time that include more sophisticated analysis, problem solving and advanced technology applications alongside in-depth community relations, police techniques are more complex than ever before. Police work requires a constant commitment to new methods of crime prevention and mitigation alongside a broad understanding of sociology, public health, and the overall administration of justice. In studying both traditional and new techniques in this field, students will have the opportunity to review various case studies to apply their own analysis and knowledge, ensuring they get a comprehensive understanding of what’s involved in this career and leave with realistic expectations for this career choice.

Introduction to Corrections
The Introduction to Corrections course is aimed at students seeking entry-level positions in a corrections facility or those looking to advance their current career in this field. This course will ensure students have the opportunity to gain the necessary skills and expertise to excel in this rapidly growing and increasingly complex industry. Beyond just looking into the corrections side of the criminal justice system, students will explore the purpose behind our corrections system alongside the implementation of successful criminal justice. Understanding the various challenges to rehabilitation, students will analyze the various techniques for housing various inmates, the legal rights they retain and the different implications of capital punishment from a federal and constitutional standpoint alongside the different state laws dictating the operations of various corrections institution depending on their location.

Probation and Parole
This course focuses on adult and juvenile probation, parole, and related institutions. The Probation and Parole course will take students through the world of community-based correctional programs in the context of history, philosophy, society and the legal framework within which it all comes about. Students will learn about the basic duties of parole and probation officers taking a look at various technique for rehabilitation including day reporting, house arrest, restitution enforcement, and community service detail. Understanding the probation and parole procedures designed to mitigate the effects of past mistakes, students will look at this division of corrections with an eye toward effective rehabilitation techniques.

Criminal Justice Ethics
Ethical considerations pose constant questions for criminal justice professionals, judges, elected officials and society as a whole. As a measure of our progress, ideals and principles as a society, the criminal justice system is one of the most important elements of any civilization. It is in that light, that the Criminal Justice Ethics course addresses the various dynamics of ethical behavior, ethical application of the laws and ethical incarcration guidelines including capital punishment and controversial federal sentencing guidelines. Focusing on the philosophical issues and moral dilemmas within the field of criminal justice, this course takes a critical look at the principles of justice, deontology and utilitarianism as well as the various players within the system. Overall, this course looks at the ethical dilemmas and professional problems faced by criminal justice personnel and the overall society they represent – a society that includes both accused and convicted criminals.

Introduction to Criminal Justice
The Introduction to Criminal Justice course explores the intricacies of the American Criminal Justice System – past, present and future. Within the confines of the Constitution, this explores the criminal justice system as it is developed by state criminal codes and served by so many levels of personnel from police officers on the street to the attorneys, judges and investigators that comprise its inner-workings. Throughout this course, students will examine police methods and crime statistics as well as following the process all the way through from incident, to arrest, to court adjudication and corrections. Students will discover how laws are criminal laws are created, how the court system enforces them, and how the American criminal justice system has evolved over the last 2 centuries.

Criminal Investigation
This course teaches students the fundamentals of criminal investigation by examining the processes involved in identifying and arresting criminal suspects, identifying the types of crimes and offenses, and preparing for court. Students will be introduced to the various techniques for interviewing witnesses, suspects and other stakeholders as well as the components of successful investigations. The course reviews a number of investigative practices in tracking down and apprehending suspects in preparation for criminal cases. Further, the Criminal Investigation course offers an intimate understanding of the science and art of criminal investigation, the gathering and analysis of evidence and the overall management of major cases. Students will have the opportunity to survey different career and research options in investigative fields.

Criminology
The Criminology course explores the different causes of criminal behavior as it is used to study and solve certain crimes. Students will be introduced to the study of crime and criminal behavior as well as to theories of crime causation. It reviews different types of crime and examines crime control policy, taking account different ethical issues, policy implications and research. Students will have the chance to review various theories of crime, delinquency, and behavior in terms of both theory and methodology. Marking the distinction between correlation and causation, students will be able to identify the historical foundations of criminology theories, define the macro and micro viewpoints of crime, delinquency and behavior and examine the different theoretical schools behind all of these points.

Criminal Courts
At the center of the American criminal justice system lies the criminal court system that serves to ensure our community and our society remain protected from both criminals and the law itself. With its unique procedures and processes, the American criminal courts are designed to ensure we have a fair and balanced system for criminal prosecution that focuses primarily on the rights of the accused. The legitimacy of American criminal jurisprudence lies in the function and fairness of its criminal courts and students will examine exactly how these institutions uphold the important balance of constitutional rights and values in their daily application. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the purpose and function of criminal courts and the prosecution process, jurisdictional requirements and limits, the unique aspects of adjudication and evidence as well as the sentencing of convicted offenders as well as the various challenges facing the overall process.

Criminal Law
This course in Criminal Law focuses on how we as a society control unwanted behavior through the application of criminal laws. Primarily centered on substantive criminal law, students will explore the history of criminal laws that have led to today’s modern criminal codes, the philosophy and logic behind them as well as the methodology for proving guilt. The course will break down the various elements of a crime and show students how each element must be proven separately and collectively in order to ensure a proper conviction. Further, students will understand the basic theories of crime and punishment and criminal culpability as contrasted with civil wrongs as well as other key concepts that make up the criminal laws that protect us as a society and as individuals.

Criminal Procedure
Criminal procedure encompasses the actions or inactions taken by law enforcement, the legal system and the penal system throughout the investigation and adjudication of a crime. Focusing primarily on the protections of the accused as dictated by the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendment to the US Constitution, this course covers the various ways in which the US criminal adjudication system defines the roles of police, prosecutors, grand juries, defendants and victims. The course takes students through the often-controversial and complex procedures balancing individual rights against the protection of everyone as it pertains to search and seizure of individuals or property, due process requirements for the accused and how these requirements have evolved over the last century through landmark cases interpreted by the US Supreme Court. Students will also gain a thorough understanding of the court procedures for criminal trials, basic evidentiary considerations, rights afforded to the accused and the basic protections available to everyone in the criminal process.
Introduction to Law

The American legal system is one of the most complex and fascinating systems of jurisprudence in the world. Professionals in this area work at a number of different levels from court clerks and judges to paralegals, attorneys and law enforcement officials. This course presents an overview of various substantive and procedural areas of the law and their corresponding legal practice areas. Students are introduced to the legal profession, legal ethics, sources of law, an overview of courts, alternative dispute resolution systems, various substantive and procedural areas of the law, and analyzing an application of law to factual circumstances. This course is geared towards providing students with a look at all aspects of the law, critical legal thinking, and a comparative approach to the civil and common law systems.

Criminal Law & Procedure

This course deals with both substantive criminal law and the legal procedures that govern its enforcement in order to safeguard individual liberties. Numerous crimes such as homicide, theft, and conspiracy make up state and federal penal statutes by which the state prosecutes individuals for actions we’ve collectively decided are not acceptable to civil society. Likewise, Criminal Law also addresses the various defenses available to individuals accused of committing such crimes such as self-defense and insanity and the way in which these defenses can be applied. This course provides the student with the basic principles and history of American criminal law, the elements of specific crimes, the procedures of the criminal justice process, and the constitutional rights of the accused.

Introduction to the Paralegal Profession

Paralegals play one of the most important roles in the legal industry. Though individual attorneys are ultimately responsible for the legal work they produce and the strategies they devise, many tasks – from legal research and writing, source citing, filing, and others – are delegated to paralegals. It is imperative for successful Paralegals to have a fundamental understanding of the substantive and procedural elements applicable to the specific areas of law where they’ll be working so that they can build on a solid foundation of knowledge starting from the first day. This course offers students a look at the Paralegal profession and the substantive and procedural areas of law.

Legal Research & Writing

The Legal Research & Writing course is designed to introduce students to legal thought, writing styles and research methods used in profession every day. Students will be introduced to various methods used to solve clients’ problems by using effective research techniques, accurate and in-depth legal analysis, and the clean and concise written and oral communication that are paramount to the legal profession. As these skills can only improve with a great deal of practice, this course offers the foundation from which students can build on these skills for years to come. This course is designed to provide students with a solid working knowledge of the tools available in law libraries, including both state and federal primary and secondary materials. Students will find, analyze, and solve problems in the legal world.

Technology in the Law Office

Advances in technology are revolutionizing today’s legal landscape at a faster pace than ever before. Along with it, the role of the legal professional continues to evolve and keep up. The automation of various legal processes has forced lawyers, paralegals, legal secretaries and other legal professionals to become proficient with constantly growing array of word processing, database, telecommunications, spreadsheet, presentation and legal research software. This course provides an introduction to computer hardware and software fundamentals necessary to the successful operation of a law office, including an overview of traditional legal software, specialty law office and case management software, and litigation support software. Students will also explore various methods for learning and keeping current with software updates and changes.

Paralegal Ethics

The legal profession is subject to ethical laws and considerations that Paralegals encounter every day on the job. Whether collecting fees, billing clients or soliciting new clients, legal professionals are required to adhere to state ethical laws governing how this industry operates in order to protect both the clients and the legal professionals. This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of professional responsibility in the legal field and how these laws apply to paralegals, specifically. In addition to the general legal ethical concepts presented in the course, students will research individual state professional responsibility rules as they apply to the overall field and to the paralegal role. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to recognize an ethical issue, categorize it, and research the possible solutions to the issue.

Contracts

Contract law serves to define the various ways in which different entities enter into an agreement. From basic consideration principles of common law through the more detailed and intuitive conclusions of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), this course will examine the elements of a valid contract and the process for agreement as well as the different remedies available for breach of contract. This course provides students with a general overview and understanding of the elements of a contractual relationship/agreement, the applicable laws related to contract negotiations and terms, and the remedies available if the agreement is breached.

Wills, Trusts & Estates

From statutory intestacy and elective share provisions, wills, and trusts to planning for incapacity, future interests in property, powers of appointment, life insurance, and introductory aspects of trust and estate administration, this course examines the use of laws that govern how these instruments can be passed on from generation to generation as intended by the original or subsequent owners. This course explores the ins and outs of the legal and ethical requirements necessary to develop and administer an estate plan. Students will be introduced to highly-specialized legal vocabulary pertaining to these particular legal fields, as well as relevant substantive and procedural law that govern wills, trusts and estates. As part of this course, students will produce an estate planning and estate administration portfolio of relevant documents that thoroughly covers the wills, trusts, and estates legal specialty.

Real Estate

Real Estate law defines the elements and principles essential to the buying and selling real property. This course takes an interdisciplinary and practice-oriented approach to real estate transactions, covering land transfers, mortgage law, and selected topics such as the structure and law of real estate transactions, including agreements of sale, title and survey matters, leasing, financing, easements, and development rights. As an introduction to Real Estate Law, this course offers students a fundamental understanding of property rights, principles of land ownership, sale, financing and conveyance, contracts, liens, mortgage financing, deeds, mortgages or deeds of trust, settlement concepts, leasing, and other property concepts.

Civil Litigation

Civil Procedure concerns the rules and principles that govern the litigation of a civil case. With any civil case or controversy, the first steps to civil litigation include an evaluation of personal and subject matter jurisdiction, venue, the notice required once a lawsuit has been filed, and which substantive law – state or federal – should apply. This course explores the process and procedures associated with a civil case. It includes the initial client interview and fact gathering, preparations of pleadings, trial preparation, post trial procedure, ethical considerations for handling a civil law case, and the application of technology in the preparation and trial of a law suit. Although reference is made to state laws, the course concentrates on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Family Law

The practice of family law examines state regulation of sexual and marital relationships, including the delicate balance of family privacy against state intervention in the marital relationship. Covering these intriguing and recently developing issues, this course provides an overview of family law. Students will explore fundamental topics including marriage, divorce, annulment, property division, parenthood, adoption, custody, support, and family violence as well as emerging areas such as legal recognition of non-marital families and assisted reproductive technology. Students will study all of these points with special attention to the legal principles, ethical issues, research, interviewing, discovery, drafting, and other essential practice skills that make up the work product surrounding this field.

Torts

Tort law seeks to remedy civil wrongs that result in harm to person or property. The parameters of tort law specify how we assign a duty of responsibility to certain actors, assess damages, and determine the distribution of burdens for the ever day risks of harm that exist in modern society, in business and in everyday life. This course presents the definitions of tort laws and describes how torts are applied to various situations and fact patterns. Specifically, the material will focus on basic concepts such as the intentional torts, negligence, strict liability, and products liability. Students will also explore the process of filing tort cases in court in terms of parties, pleadings, timing, and the appeals process.