



Governing Iowa's Public Universities

In accordance with [Board of Regents policy 3.20](#), the following required information is available below:

Fall 2026

I. Course title and number as designated in the institutional course catalog

CRIM 2500 Criminal Law and Procedure

II. A course description including learning objectives that students are expected to achieve by the end of the course

A. Course Description:

This course covers the development of criminal law in the United States, including 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, and 14th Amendment rights and how these are reflected in the U.S. criminal justice system. Criminal law generally defines the rights and obligations of individuals, while procedural law concerns the protection of individual rights through all phases of the criminal justice process from first contact with police through trial and sentencing. Emphasis is on practical knowledge of procedural law for criminal justice workers.

B. Course Level Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the theories and concepts of criminal law and procedure.
2. Explain how courts are related to other parts of the criminal justice system.
3. Apply criminal law statutes and judicial decisions to scenarios.
4. Think critically about the criminal justice system.

III. A general outline of the topics to be covered throughout the course:

WEEK 1 - What Is Criminal Law?

WEEK 2 - What Is a Crime?

WEEK 3 - Crimes Against the Person

WEEK 4 - Crimes Against Property

WEEK 5 - Social Crimes

WEEK 6 - Crimes Against the Government

WEEK 7 - Reading and Understanding Judicial Opinions

WEEK 8 - Theories of Punishment

WEEK 9 - Innovation in the Criminal Justice System



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WEEK 10 - Criminal Procedure: Common Law Defenses

WEEK 11 - Criminal Procedure: Constitutional Rights Before Arrest

WEEK 12 - Criminal Procedure: The Constitutional Rights After Arrest

WEEK 13 - Criminal Procedure: The Constitutional Right to Trial by Jury

WEEK 14 - Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 15 - Criminal Procedure Postconviction

WEEK 16 - Criminal Justice in Popular Culture

IV. List of required textbooks, readings, and other materials necessary for the course

Basic Criminal Law: The Constitution, Procedure, & Crime, Author: Anniken Davenport, Publisher: Pearson Publishing, Edition: 4th, Year Published: 2015
ISBN-10 9780133581843

V. General description of the types of assessments used in the course (e.g., exams, papers, projects, experiential learning):

Reading quizzes: Five-question quizzes given each week to gauge comprehension of material covered in the textbook and in lecture.

Writing Assignments: Weekly 250-500 essays asking students to evaluate benefits and drawbacks to different approaches to criminal justice, reflect on the current state of the law, and argue positions based on each week's topic.

Discussion Posts (25 points): Three discussion posts each week responding to prompts and classmates' posts.