1. Course Description and Objectives

Substantive criminal law presents difficult questions concerning the relationship of the individual to the state, the goals of criminal law, and how they may be achieved. Therefore, the course will study the general principles of criminal law, with particular emphasis placed on *actus reus*, *mens rea*, homicide, inchoate offenses (attempt and conspiracy), liability for the conduct of others (accomplice liability) and defenses (self-defense, necessity, and duress).

2. Class Time and Room

This class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30am-11:45am in room 102 of the Law School. The course meets from Monday, January 13, through Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

3. Contact Information

   a. General. My office is Room 250. Telephone number is 618-453-8797. E-mail address is ldervan@law.siu.edu.

   b. Office Hours. My scheduled office hours are as follows: Tuesdays – 10:00am-noon (unless there is a scheduling conflict). I will also be at the law school most weekdays, so please feel free to stop by my office if the door is open. If for some reason you cannot meet during the scheduled office hours or at another time when I am in the office, please email me so we can schedule a time to meet.
c. Electronic Communication. Check your e-mail daily. I will use your SIU e-mail address to send messages pertaining to class. I often send messages through the TWEN page.

4. Course Materials

Our primary classroom text will be *Cases and Materials on Criminal Law* (5th Edition) by Joshua Dressler. The book is available at the SIU campus bookstores, the 710 Bookstore, and the Saluki Bookstore. Other course materials can be found on the Westlaw TWEN page associated with this course. You are responsible for checking the TWEN page and reading any assigned materials posted to the TWEN page.

5. Grading and Evaluation

This course will be graded as follows:

a. Final Examination (80%). The final examination will be a comprehensive in-class examination. The examination will include multiple-choice and an essay element. I will provide more details about the final later in the semester. The final exam in this course will be administered on **Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 8:15am**.

b. Preparation and Class Participation (10%). As a core portion of the law school curriculum, it is critical both to your enjoyment of the subject and your mastering of the material that you be prepared for class. As such, preparation and participation are part of your final grade.

Students will not be permitted to “note out” in this course.

c. Writing Across the Curriculum Assignment (10%). During the semester you will take two practice exam questions. The first will be administered in-class. The second will be taken at home. The practice exam questions will each consist of one essay question, which will be representative of the type of essay question you will encounter on the final exam. To receive credit for this portion of the course, you must take and turn in both practice exam questions.

Further details regarding the mid-term will be provided later in the semester.

6. Attendance Policy

Attendance is required, and you may miss no more than six (6) classes during the semester. This maximum number of class absences includes absences due to illness (except in extraordinary situations, which will be addressed at my sole discretion on a case-by-case basis). As such, do not use up all of your absences early in the semester. Please also note that students who arrive in class visibly ill will be required to leave and will be counted as absent. Those exceeding the maximum number of absences will be subject to the ramifications described in the Law School’s attendance policy. See School of Law Rules III.5(e)-(f).

An attendance sheet will be distributed at the beginning of each class. Please sign the attendance sheet acknowledging that you are (1) present, and (2) prepared to participate in the class discussion. If
you are late for class, you may not sign the attendance sheet and will be counted as absent. You may not sign for anyone but yourself.

7. **Classroom Etiquette**

   Please be courteous to your fellow students during classroom discussion. This includes ensuring that all cell phones are turned off prior to the beginning of class. If you have an emergency that requires you be available by cell phone, simply let me know before class begins.

8. **Reading Schedule**

   I will post the reading schedule for each two to four week period well in advance. This will ensure that if we need to spend extra time on a particular concept, we can do so without having to constantly adjust an already published reading schedule.

9. **Students with Disabilities**

   The law school’s policies and procedures regarding students with disabilities may be found online at [http://www.law.siu.edu/](http://www.law.siu.edu/). Students with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Registrar’s office.

10. **Video Recording of Class**

   All classes will be video recorded. This will allow you to watch classes you have missed or watch classes you attended but would like to review again. The class video recordings are available in the library.

11. **Emergency Procedures**

   Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on the BERT’s website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Public Safety’s website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

   Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The BERT will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.