EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE
REGULAR BASIC COURSE
LEARNING DOMAIN 5
INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL LAW

I. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must know the origins of current law to know the role of law enforcement today.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Identify the relationship among:
   1. Constitutional law
   2. Statutory law
   3. Case law

II. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must know the nuances of the written law to correctly interpret the law.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Differentiate between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law
   1. Common law
   2. Serious crimes
   3. Traffic stops
   4. Infractions
   5. Misdemeanors

B. Differentiate between criminal and civil law
   1. Definition
   2. Violation Terminology
   3. Prosecutor
   4. Purpose

III. LEARNING NEED

To enforce the law, peace officers must know what constitutes a crime and the information required to identify that a crime has occurred.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Recall the statutory definition of a crime
   1. Violation of a statute
   2. Classification of crime
   3. Punishment for the crime

B. Identify the basic elements common to all crimes
   1. Basic facts that must be proven to sustain conviction
   2. Commission of a prohibited act
   3. Intent

C. Identify the basic elements required of an attempt to commit a crime
   1. Intent to commit the crime
   2. Direct but ineffectual act toward commission
   3. Circumstances make accomplishments of the objective

D. Discuss general, specific and transferred intent crimes
   1. General- intent is presumed
   2. Specific- element must be proven, not presumed
   3. Transferred- unlawful act affects another person

E. Differentiate between criminal intent and criminal negligence
   1. Intent must exist to distinguish the crime from accident or mistake
   2. Negligence meets the requirement of criminal intent
   3. Negligence is the failure to exercise ordinary care

IV. LEARNING NEED

To arrest a subject, peace officers must determine what type of crime has been committed, who was involved in the commission of the crime, and who cannot be criminally liable.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Identify three classes of crime:
   1. Felony
   2. Misdemeanor
   3. Infraction
B. Differentiate among the three parties to a crime, to include:
   1. Principals
   2. Accessories
   3. Accomplices

C. Identify people legally incapable of committing a crime
   1. Incapable persons
   2. Children
   3. Lack of mental capacity

V. REQUIRED TESTS
   A. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive RBC Test 1
   B. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive RBC Test 2.
   C. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive RBC Test 3.

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