

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.

Description	Hours
POST Minimum Required Hours	<u>4</u>
Agency Specific Hours	<u>0</u>
Total Instructional Hours	<u>4</u>