

CJL 4110: Substantive Criminal Law

Instructor Info:

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Office Hours: M/W 1:30–3:30pm

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Office: Eppes 306

Email: jpupo@fsu.edu

Course Info:

Academic Term: Fall 2019
Credits: 3 units

Course Schedule: M/W 3:35–4:50pm
Course Location: Diffenbaugh 0128

Course Description: This course offers an examination of the central principles of criminal law, which includes the substantive elements defining criminal conduct for specific crimes and the various exculpatory conditions for criminal liability.

Required Textbooks: Joel Samaha. 2015. *Criminal Law* (12th ed.) Cengage. ISBN-13: 9781305577381.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to provide students with:

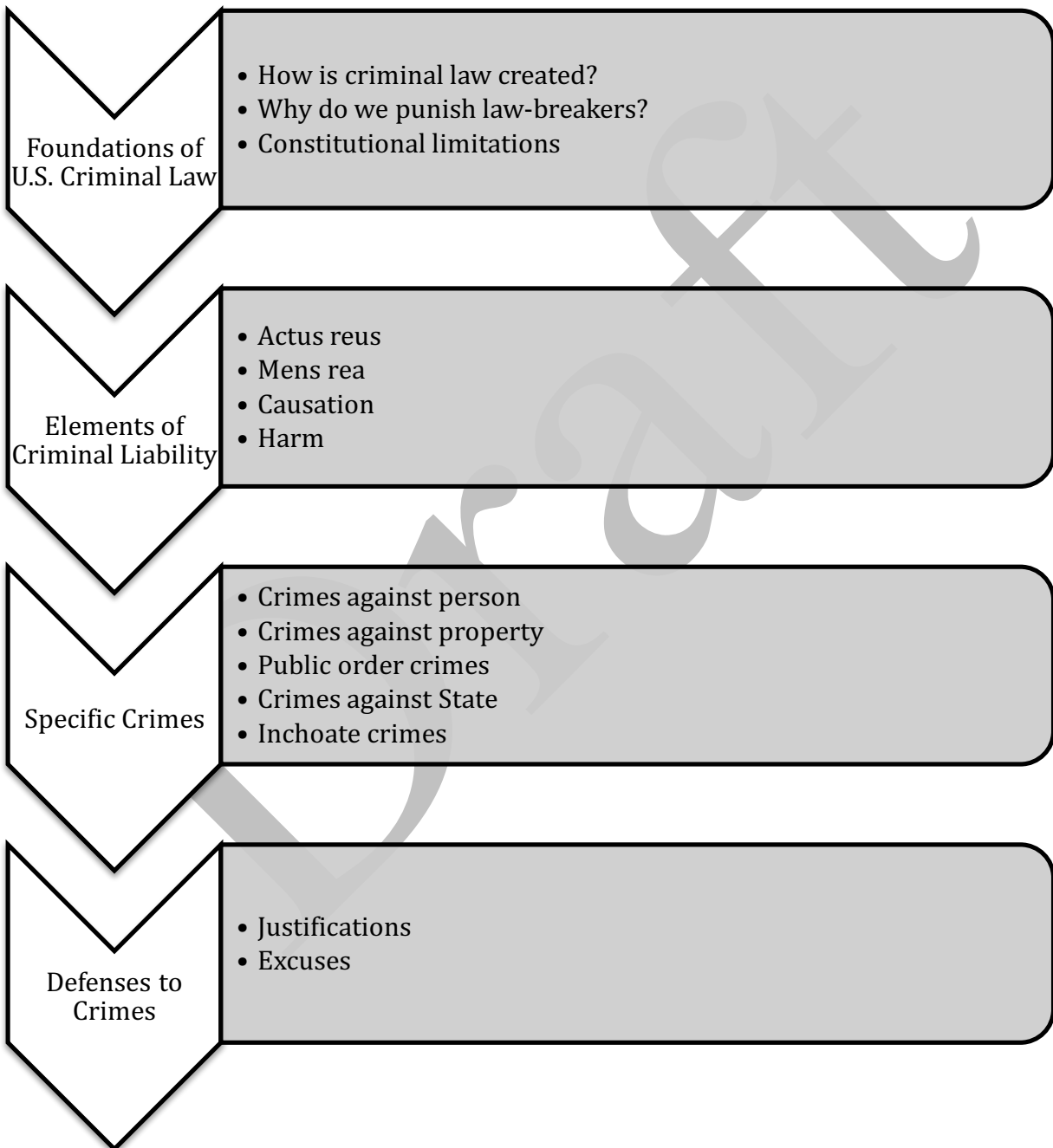
- (1) An understanding of *substantive* criminal law
- (2) An understanding of the impact substantive criminal law has on their lives, both as citizens and as future criminal justice professionals
- (3) An understanding of the elements of criminal liability, and how those elements manifest themselves in specific crimes
- (4) The ability to apply legal principles to factual situations

By the conclusion of this course, the successful student will be able to:

- (1) Describe the essential elements of law
- (2) Distinguish between law and morality
- (3) Distinguish between criminal and civil law
- (4) Describe the way statutory law and case law are created
- (5) Describe when criminal liability attaches to a person
- (6) Explain the constitutional limitations on the ability of the legislature to impose any sentence it wishes on a convicted criminal
- (7) Describe the elements of various “crimes against the person,” such as murder, manslaughter, rape, and robbery; “crimes against property,” such as burglary, larceny,

- and arson; and “public order crimes,” such as vagrancy and prostitution
- (8) Outline the elements of legal defenses, such as self-defense, mistake, necessity and entrapment, that may be successfully raised, and describe the manner in which they operate
 - (9) Apply the legal principles learned to factual situations

Course Map:



Course Calendar:

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading
Week 1	August 26 August 28	Course Introduction Sources of Criminal Law/ Theories of Punishment	Chapter 1
Week 2	September 2 September 4	No Class (Labor Day) Constitutional Limitations	Chapter 2
Week 3	September 9 September 11	Constitutional Limitations	Chapter 2
Week 4	September 16 September 18	Actus Reus Mens Rea	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
Week 5	September 23 September 25	Legal Causation Exam 1	Chapter 4 Chapters 1–4
Week 6	September 30 October 2	Justifications	Chapter 5
Week 7	October 7 October 9	Excuses	Chapter 6
Week 8	October 14 October 16	Homicide	Chapter 9
Week 9	October 21 October 23	Crimes against Person	Chapter 10
Week 10	October 28 October 30	Crimes against Property	Chapter 11
Week 11	November 4 November 6	Crimes against Property Exam 2	Chapter 11 Chapters 5–6, 9–11

Week 12	November 11	No Class (Veterans Day)	
	November 13	No Class	
Week 13	November 18	Crimes against Public Order/ Crimes Against State/	Chapter 12/ Chapter 13
	November 20	Parties to Crime	Chapter 7
Week 14	November 25	No Class	
	November 27	No Class (Thanksgiving)	
Week 15	December 2	Inchoate Crimes	Chapter 7
	December 4		Chapter 8
Week 16	December 12 (10am–12pm)	Final Exam	Chapters 1–13

Assignments:

Case Briefing (20%): Every student will be assigned to brief cases on a weekly basis via Canvas. There will be a total of 10 case briefing assignments. Briefs will be graded according to 4 components: facts, issue, holding, reasoning (each worth 2.5 points). Half-credit will be given for late briefs. Instructions on how to brief a case will be provided in class.

Exam 1 (20%): Exam 1 covers chapters 1–4 in the textbook and will be given on **Wednesday, September 25**. The exam is closed book, closed notes, and consists of multiple-choice questions. Absence on a day of an exam will result in a zero.

Exam 2 (20%): Exam 2 covers chapters 5–6 and 9–11 in the textbook and will be given on **Wednesday, November 6**. The exam is closed book, closed notes, and consists of multiple-choice questions. Absence on a day of an exam will result in a zero.

Final examination (40%): The final exam will be given on **Thursday, December 12 at 10am**. Please note that this *is not the regularly scheduled class time*. The exam is closed book, closed notes, and consists of multiple-choice questions. *This exam will be cumulative: it covers ALL the assigned readings and class discussions.* Absence on a day of an exam will result in a zero.

Attendance/participation: Regular attendance and participation will be taken into consideration when calculating final grades, and may result in a one percent bump in one's final grade. This is left up to the instructor's discretion.

Grading and Evaluation:

Final course grades will be determined as follows:

Assignment	Percent of final grade
Case Briefing/Presentation	20%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Examination	40%

Grading Scale:

Final grade	Percentile
A (4.000)	100 – 95
A- (3.667)	94.9 – 90
B+ (3.333)	89.9 – 87
B (3.000)	86.9 – 83
B- (2.667)	82.9 – 80
C+ (2.333)	79.9 – 77
C (2.000)	76.9 – 73
C- (1.667)	72.9 – 70
D+ (1.333)	69.9 – 67
D (1.000)	66.9 – 63
D- (0.667)	62.9 – 60
F (0.000)	59.9 – below

University Attendance Policy:

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy:

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and ... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>)

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
- (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.