

CJL 4110: Substantive Criminal Law

Instructor Info:

Professor: Steven N. Zane, J.D., Ph.D.
Office: Eppes 306A

Email: szane@fsu.edu
Zoom Office Hours: Thursday, 4–6pm

Graduate Assistant: Cole Ward

Email: clw19a@my.fsu.edu

Course Info:

Academic Term: Summer 2022 (A)
Credits: 3 units

Course Schedule: Online
Course Location: Canvas

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.

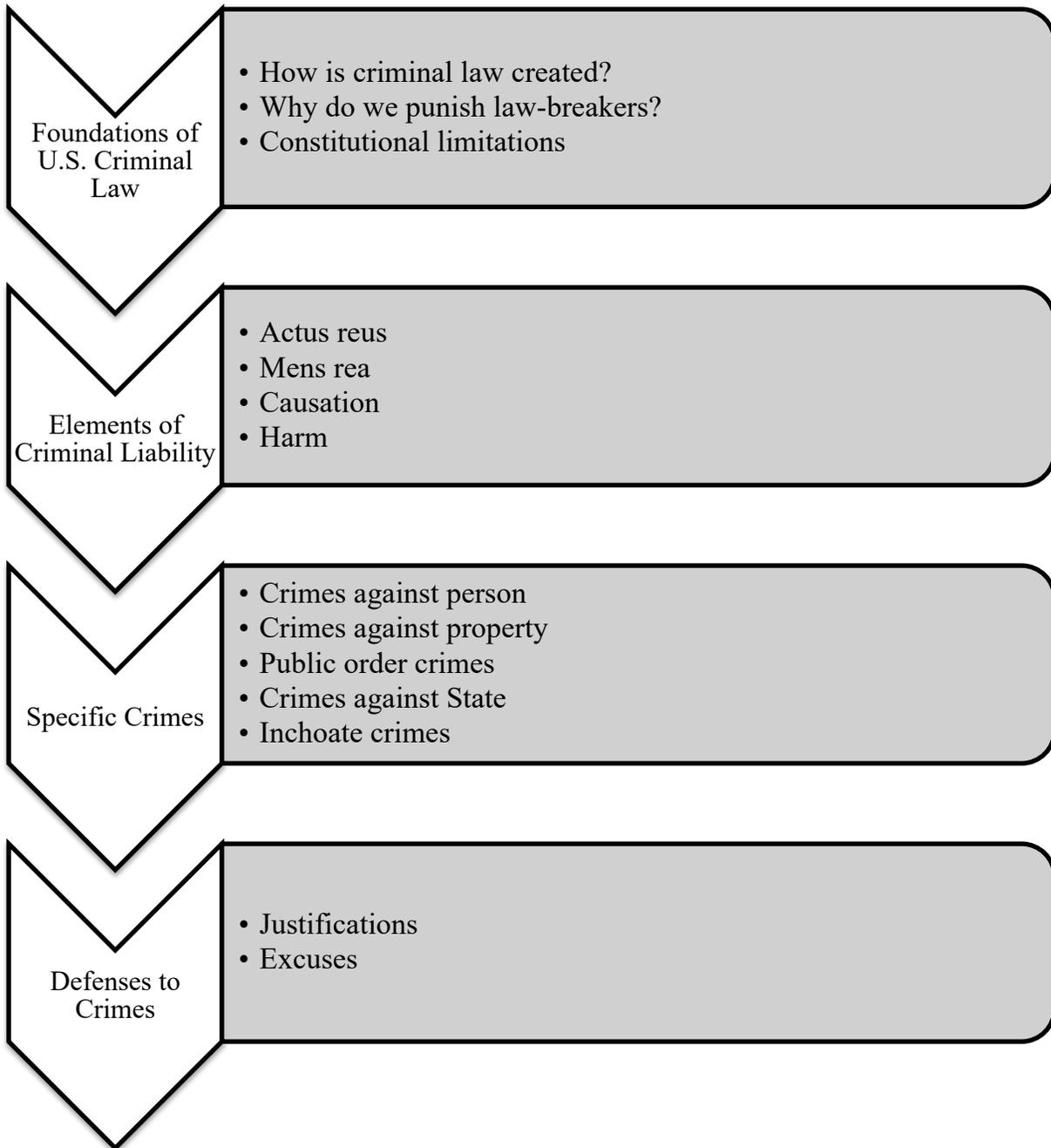
Course Objectives: This course is designed to provide students with:

- (1) An understanding of *substantive* criminal law
- (2) An understanding of the impact 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

Learning Outcomes: 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 loitering
- (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 situation

Course Map:



Course Calendar:

Week	Lecture Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1	May 9	Course Introduction Sources of Criminal Law/ Theories of Punishment	Chapter 1
	May 11	Constitutional Limitations	Chapter 2
Week 2	May 16	Actus Reus	Chapter 3
	May 18	Mens rea/ Causation	Chapter 4
	May 20	Exam 1	Chapters 1–4
Week 3	May 23	Defenses: Justifications	Chapter 5
	May 25	Defenses: Excuses	Chapter 6
Week 4	May 31	Homicide	Chapter 9
	June 1	Crimes against Person/ Crimes against Property	Chapter 10/ Chapter 11
	June 3	Exam 2	Chapters 5–6, 9–11
Week 5	June 6	Crimes against Public Order/ Crimes against State	Chapter 12/ Chapter 13
	June 8	Parties to Crime	Chapter 7

Week 6	June 13	Inchoate Crimes	Chapter 8
	June 17	Final Exam (cumulative)	Chapters 1–13

Online Lecture Release Dates:

This is a condensed, 6-week version of a 12-week course. Lectures will be released twice per week, on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9am. Assignments will be due **twice** per week, at midnight before course materials are released. Exams will be held every other Friday. (As described below, there are 3 exams.)

Assignments:

Case Briefing (20%): Every student will be assigned to brief cases for each chapter. Starting in Week 2, students will turn in **two** case brief assignments, due on **Sunday at midnight** (prior to the Monday lecture) and **Tuesday at midnight** (prior to the Wednesday lecture). There will be 10 case briefing assignments.

Briefs will be graded according to 4 components: facts, issue, holding, and reasoning (each worth 2.5 points). Half-credit will be given for late briefs or improper formatting. Instructions on how to brief a case will also be provided in class.

Exam 1 (20%): Exam 1 covers chapters 1–4 in the textbook and accompanying lecture materials. A study guide will be provided. The exam will become available on **Friday, May 20 at 9am and is due by 11:59pm**. The exam is closed book, closed notes, and consists of multiple-choice questions. It will be conducted using HonorLock software. Failure to turn in the exam by the due date will result in a zero.

Exam 2 (20%): Exam 2 covers chapters 5–6 and 9–11 in the textbook and accompanying lecture materials. A study guide will be provided. The exam will become available on **Friday, June 3 at 9am and is due by 11:59pm**. The exam is closed book, closed notes, and consists of multiple-choice questions. It will be conducted using HonorLock software. Failure to turn in the exam by the due date will result in a zero.

Final examination (40%): The final exam will become available on **Friday, June 17 at 9am and is due by 11:59pm**. *This exam will be cumulative: it covers ALL the assigned readings and class lectures.* A study guide will be provided. The exam is closed book, closed notes, and consists of multiple-choice questions. It will be conducted using HonorLock software. Failure to turn in the exam by the due date will result in a zero.

Correspondence and online discussion

All correspondence will be done through Canvas and through FSU e-mail. If you do not check your FSU email regularly, you will need to do so for this course. It is easiest to reach me via e-mail as this is checked daily. If you need to contact me or the graduate teaching assistant, you can expect a response within one day during the week. (I will not check emails regularly on weekends.) Your emails should be written in a professional manner (e.g., appropriate salutation, grammar, punctuation, and signature).

Grading and Evaluation:

Final course grades will be determined as follows:

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

Grading Scale:

Final grade	Percentile
A (4.000)	100 – 93
A- (3.667)	92.9 – 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 written 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>).

Academic Success

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Dean of Students office to learn more.

Americans With Disabilities Act

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course. To receive academic accommodations, a student: (1) must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS); (2) must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and, (3) should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services 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:

Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

Confidential campus resources

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following: Victim Advocate Program

University Center A,
Room 4100, (850) 644-7161,
Available 24/7/365,
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

University Counseling Center, University Health Services

Askew Student Life Center,
2ndFloor,
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-8255
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

Health and Wellness Center,
(850) 644-6230
<https://uhs.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.