

# CJL 4110: Substantive Criminal Law

## Instructor Info:

**Professor:** Steven N. Zane, J.D., Ph.D.  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesday, 1–3pm

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## Course Info:

**Academic Term:** Spring 2023  
**Credits:** 3 units

**Course Schedule:** M/W 4:50–6:05pm  
**Course Location:** Bellamy 116

**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* (12<sup>th</sup> ed.) Cengage. ISBN-13: 9781305577381.

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

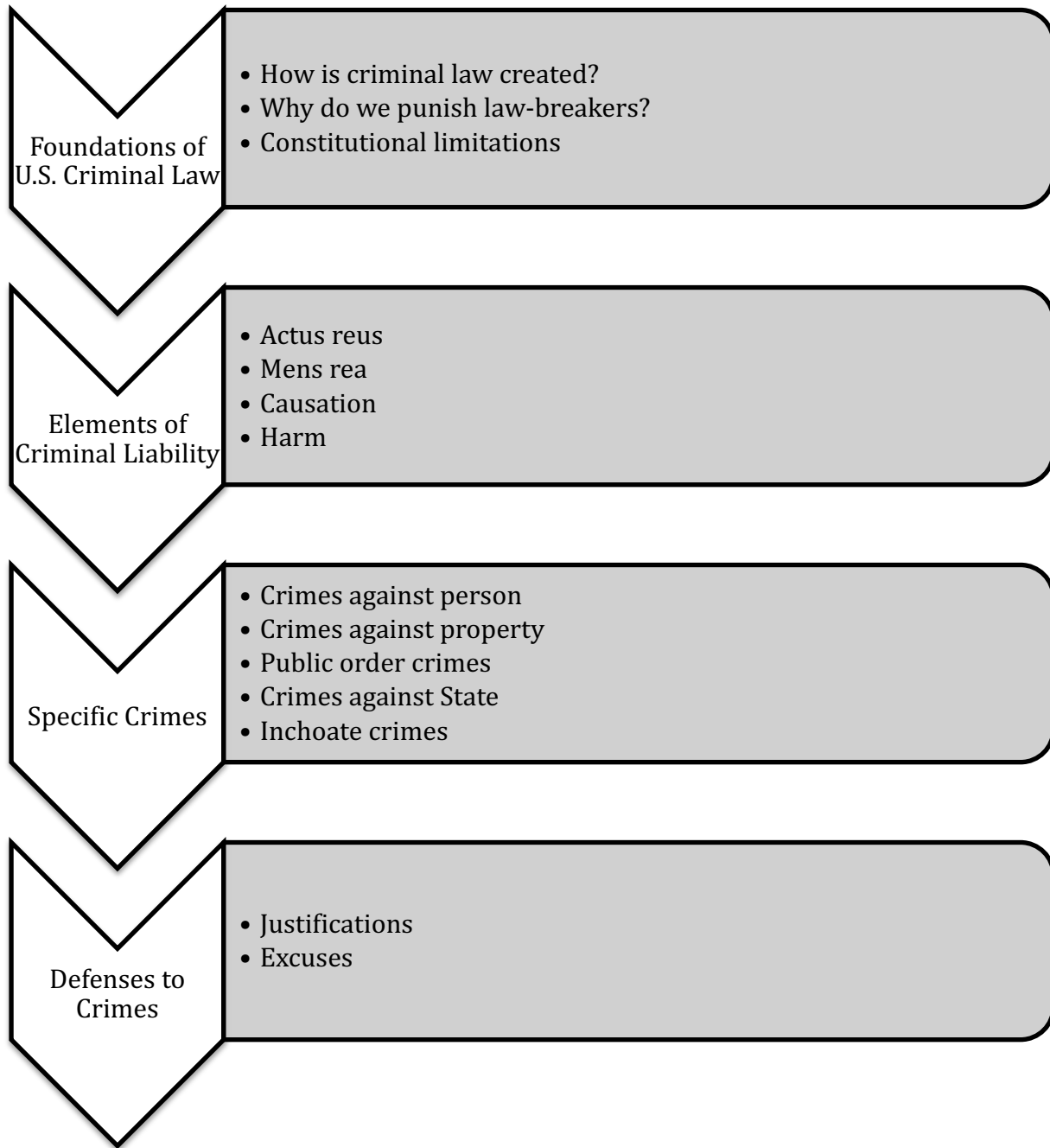
- (1) An understanding of *substantive* criminal law
- (2) An understanding of the impact criminal law has on their lives, both as citizens and as future criminal justice professionals
- (3) An understanding of the elements of criminal liability, and how those elements manifest themselves in specific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

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:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 1	January 9 January 11	Course introduction Sources of criminal law/ Theories of punishment	Chapter 1
Week 2	January 16 January 18	No class (MLK Jr. holiday) Constitutional limitations of criminal law	Chapter 2
Week 3	January 23 January 25	Constitutional limitations (cont.)	Chapter 2
Week 4	January 30 February 1	Actus reus	Chapter 3
Week 5	February 6 February 8	Mens rea Legal causation	Chapter 4
Week 6	<b>February 13</b> February 15	<b>Exam 1</b> Justifications	<b>Chapters 1–4</b> Chapter 5
Week 7	February 20 February 22	Justifications	Chapter 5
Week 8	February 27 March 1	Excuses	Chapter 6
Week 9	March 6 March 8	Homicide	Chapter 9

	March 13 March 15	Spring break	
Week 10	March 20 March 22	Crimes against person	Chapter 10
Week 11	March 27 March 29	Crimes against property	Chapter 11
Week 12	April 3 <b>April 5</b>	Property (cont.) <b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Chapters 5–6, 9–11</b>
Week 13	April 10 April 12	Crimes against public order Crimes against the state	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
Week 14	April 17 April 19	Parties to crime	Chapter 7
Week 15	April 24 April 26	Inchoate crimes	Chapter 8
Week 16	<b>May 1 @ 5:30pm</b>	<b>Final exam</b>	<b>Chapters 1–13</b>

**Assignments:**

**Case Briefing (20%):** Every student will be assigned to brief cases on a weekly basis via Canvas. There will be a total of 11 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 **Monday, February 13**. The exam is closed book, closed notes, and consists of 30 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, April 5**. The exam is closed book, closed notes, and consists of 30 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 **Monday, May 1 at 5:30–7:30pm**. Please note that this *is not the regularly scheduled class time*. The exam is closed book, closed notes, and consists of 60 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.

### **Grading and Evaluation:**

Final course grades will be determined as follows:

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

### **Grading Scale:**

<b>Final grade</b>	<b>Percentile</b>
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

The above scale is applied without exceptions (i.e., I do not round up).

### **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/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/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, Rm. 4100  
(850) 644-7161  
Available 24/7/365  
Office Hours: M-F 8-5  
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

Counseling and Psychological Services  
Askew Student Life Center, 2nd floor  
942 Learning Way  
(850) 644-8255  
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services  
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 with advance notice.*