

CJL 4110: Substantive Criminal Law

Instructor Info:

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

Email: szane@fsu.edu
Office Hours: Monday, 11am–1pm

Graduate Assistant: Lexington Bryant

Email: lbryant3@fsu.edu
Office: 306 CRIM

Course Info:

Academic Term: Spring 2024
Credits: 3 units

Course Schedule: M/W 3:05–4:20pm
Course Location: SAN 0108

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:

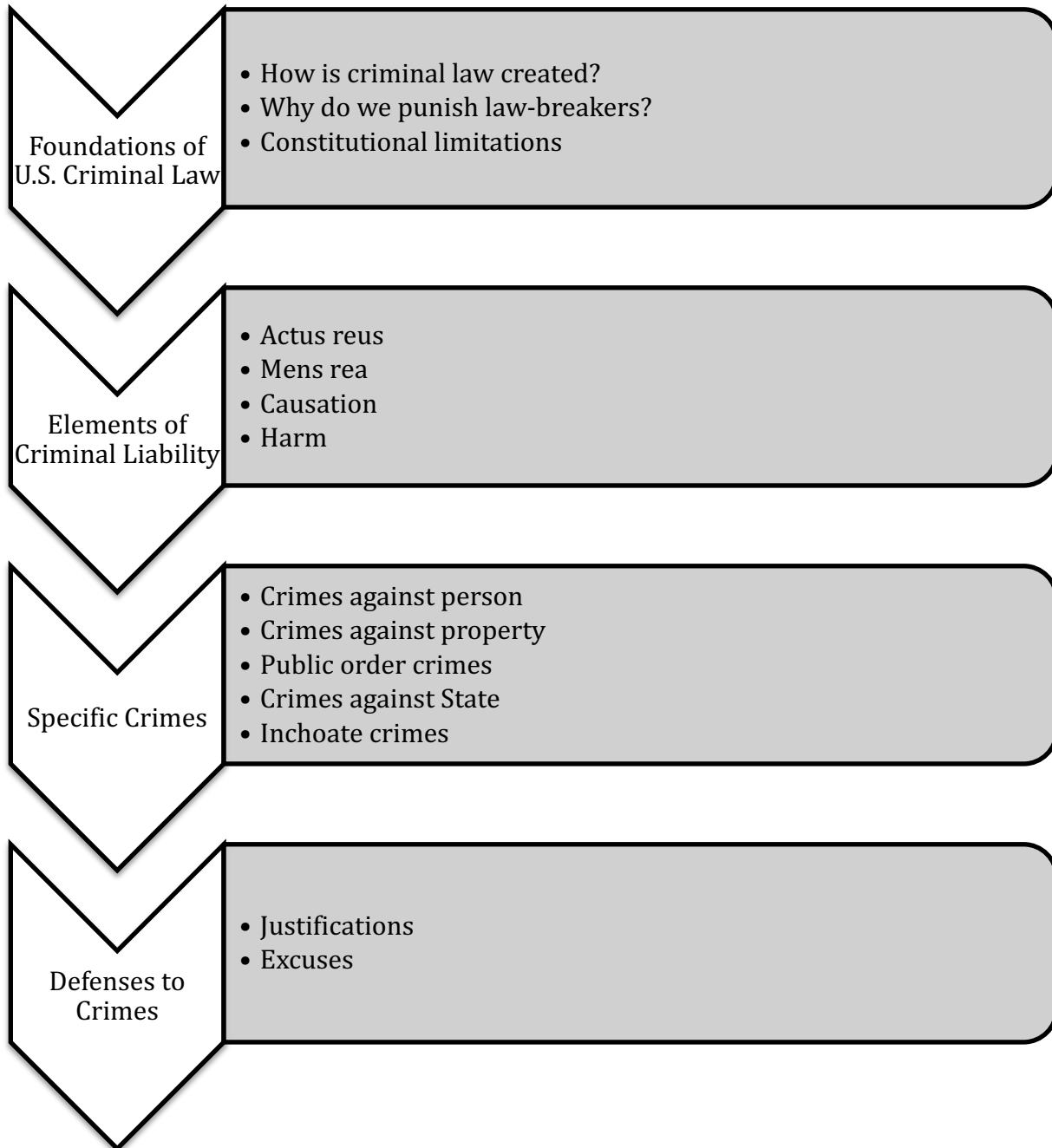
- (1) An understanding of *substantive* criminal law
- (2) An understanding of the impact criminal law has on their lives, both as citizens and as future criminal justice professionals
- (3) An understanding of the elements of criminal liability, and how those elements manifest themselves in specific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

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	January 8 January 10	Course introduction Sources of criminal law/ Theories of punishment	Chapter 1
Week 2	January 15 January 17	No class (MLK Jr. holiday) Constitutional limitations of criminal law	Chapter 2
Week 3	January 22 January 24	Constitutional limitations (cont.)	Chapter 2
Week 4	January 29 January 31	Actus reus	Chapter 3
Week 5	February 5 February 7	Mens rea Legal causation	Chapter 4
Week 6	February 12 February 14	Exam 1 Justifications	Chapters 1–4 Chapter 5
Week 7	February 19 February 21	No class Justifications	Chapter 5
Week 8	February 26 February 28	Excuses	Chapter 6
Week 9	March 4 March 6	Homicide	Chapter 9

	March 11 March 13	Spring break	
Week 10	March 18 March 20	Crimes against person	Chapter 10
Week 11	March 25 March 27	Crimes against property	Chapter 11
Week 12	April 1 April 3	No class Property (cont.)	
Week 13	April 8 April 10	Exam 2 Crimes against public order	Chapters 5–6, 9–11 Chapter 12
Week 14	April 15 April 17	Crimes against the state Parties to crime	Chapter 13 Chapter 7
Week 15	April 22 April 24	Inchoate crimes	Chapter 8
Week 16	May 1 @ 12:30pm	Final exam	Chapters 1–13

Assignments:

Case Briefing (30%): 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). Instructions on how to brief a case will be provided in class.

Assignments will be graded as satisfactory (full credit), less than satisfactory (half credit), or zero. Assignments must be turned by **Sunday at 11:59pm** during the assigned week for full credit. Half-

credit will be given for late assignments.

Exam 1 (20%): Exam 1 covers chapters 1–4 in the textbook and will be given on **Monday, February 12**. 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 **Monday, April 8**. 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 (30%): The final exam will be given on **Monday, May 1 at 12:30–2:30pm**. 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. There are no extra credit opportunities.

Assignment	Percent of final grade
Case Briefing	30%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Examination	30%

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

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.