

CONCEPTS OF CRIMINAL LAW
JUSTICE STUDIES 14
Fall, 2004
Monday, 5:30-8:15 P.M.
McQuarry Hall 523

Lecturer: Anthony Robinson
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to criminal law, including historical development, underlying philosophies, and important elements of crimes. The goal of this course is to give the student with a comprehensive familiarity with crime and punishment. Topics include sources of criminal and correctional law; the legal process, criteria of criminal responsibility, and some principles of evidence and proof. The determinative sentencing laws and the more recent indeterminate sentencing in the form of the three-strikes and one-strike laws will be thoroughly discussed.

REQUIRED READING

Required text: Samaha, Joel., Criminal Law (8th ed. 2004) published by Wadsworth.

Other reading includes statutes and cases available on the internet or by handout.

GRADING

Student=s mastery of the material will be evaluated through observation of the student=s class participation and the student=s performance on quizzes and the midterm, a courtroom assignment, and the final examination.

Breakdown of grades will be as follows:

Participation 20%, Midterm 25%, Courtroom Assignment 20%, Final Exam 35%.

Communication: Students should not hesitate to telephone at the above provided number or drop by the office at any time. Email communications are encouraged.

Course Grade: All assignments are graded ABCDF. The final grade will be based on a weighted average of the quizzes, test grades, and class participation. Some quizzes will be noticed and others will be pop-quizzes. Please note that University and Departmental guidelines require a serious and compelling reason to drop a course. A course cannot be dropped because of grades alone.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES

Subject to Changes

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

DATE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT READING
8/30/04	Class Introduction, Description.	
9/7/04	Nature and Purpose of Criminal Law.	Chapter 1
9/13/04	Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law.	Chapter 2
9/20/04	Actions Constituting a Crime, Elements Actus Reus Defined	Chapter 3
9/27/04	Mental component of a crime, Concurrence, Causation. Mens Rea	Chapter 4
10/4/04	Parties to a Crime, Liability.	Chapter 5
10/11/04	Attempt, Conspiracy, Solicitation.	Chapter 6
10/18/04	Midterm, Chapters 1- 6	
10/25/04	Defenses to Criminal Liability- Justification. <u>Courtroom Assignment.</u>	Chapter 7
11/01/04	Defenses to Criminal Liability Excuses.	Chapter 8
11/08/04	Crimes against a person - Homicide.	Chapter 9
11/15/04	Crimes against a person - Assaults, Sex Crimes.	Chapter 10
11/22/04	Crimes against Property	Chapter 11
11/29/04	Crimes against Public Order	Chapter 12
12/06/04	Dead Week, Review	Review All Materials.
12/15/04	<u>Final Examination.</u> 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m	