

CONCEPTS OF CRIMINAL LAW

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Office Hours: Wednesday 8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
Or By Appointment

Course Description:

Historical development of the philosophy of criminal law and constitutional provisions, legal definitions, classification of crime, case law, methodology, and concepts of criminal law as a social force.

Course Objectives:

1. Understanding of theories of criminal law.
2. Tracing the development of American Criminal Law and the common law vs. statutory law distinctions.
3. Learning to distinguish between Torts and Crimes.
4. Understanding the general principles of criminal culpability.
5. Understanding justifications, excuses, defenses used in criminal law.
6. Learning to distinguish between different types of crimes.

Course Requirements:

Required Text: Criminal Law, 7th ed., by Joel Samaha. There have been changes from previous editions of the textbook. If you do not use the 7th edition text page numbers for assignments will not match earlier editions. Text is available in the bookstore.

Reading Assignments: Please complete all reading assignments before the class in which they are to be discussed. All tests, class discussions, and final exams will be based upon the readings. Students are expected to know the material that will be discussed in class.

Class Discussion: There will be a class discussion almost every class. Participation is encouraged and rewarded. Because the class meets only once per week, missing class will be detrimental to understanding of the text.

Testing and Evaluation: There will be a number of quizzes given in class. Usually these will be short quizzes which reflect a student's understanding of the text. Quizzes may be given with or without advance notice. Additionally, there will be a mid-term and final examination. There will also be a courtroom assignment which will be discussed in depth when it is assigned.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

DATE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT READING
2/4/04	Class Introduction, Description.	
2/11/04	Nature and Purpose of Criminal Law. Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law.	Chapters 1,2
2/18/04	Constitutional Limits Continued. Actions Constituting a Crime, Elements.	Chapter 2,3
2/25/04	Mental component of a crime, Concurrence, Causation.	Chapter 4
3/3/04	Parties to a Crime, Liability.	Chapter 5
3/10/04	Attempt, Conspiracy, Solicitation.	Chapter 6
3/17/04	Defenses to Criminal Liability- Justification, Excuses.	Chapter 7,8
3/24/04	<u>Midterm.</u>	
3/31/04	Spring Recess - Have fun. Read Crimes against a person - Homicide.	Chapter 9
4/7/04	Crimes against a person - Homicide. <u>Courtroom Assignment.</u>	Chapter 9
4/14/04	Crimes against a person - Assaults, Sex Crimes.	Chapter 10
4/21/04	Crimes against Habitation - Burglary, Arson.	Chapter 11
4/28/04	Crimes against Property	Chapter 12
5/5/04	Crimes Against Order	Chapter 13
5/12/04	Dead Week, Review	Review All Materials.
5/26/04	<u>Final Examination.</u> 7:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	