

Spring 2005

JS -14 MCQH RM 523  
MON. 5:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

## CONCEPTS OF CRIMINAL LAW

Professor: **Anthony C. Robinson, Esq.**  
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Office Hours: Monday 8:15-9:15, 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. Introduction to the elements of major crimes and distinguishing between different types of crimes.

Required Text: **Criminal Law, 8th ed.**, by Joel Samaha. There have been changes from previous editions of the textbook. If you do not use the 8th 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.

Grading: Mid Term 25%, Final Exam 35%, Courtroom Assignment 20%,  
Quizzes and Participation 20%

## SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT READING
08/29/05	Class Introduction, Description.	
09/05/05	No Class (Labor Day)	Chapter 1
09/12/05	Nature and Purpose of Criminal Law.	Chapter 1
09/19/05	Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law. Bill of Rights.	Chapter 2
09/26/05	Actus Reus, Elements. Learning Case Briefing - <u>Porter v. State</u>	Chapter 3
10/03/05	Mens Rea, Concurrence, Causation Brief - <u>State v. Stark, Koppersmith v. State</u>	Chapter 4
10/10/05	Parties to a Crime, Liability. Brief - <u>State v. Ulvinen, State v. Chism</u>	Chapter 5
10/17/05	Attempt, Conspiracy, Solicitation. Brief - <u>Le Barron v. State</u> Review for Midterm.	Chapter 6
10/24/05	<b><u>Midterm.</u></b>	Chapters 1-6.
10/31/05	Defenses to Criminal Liability- Justifications. <b><u>Courtroom Assignment.</u></b> Brief - <u>People v. Goetz</u>	Chapter 7
11/07/05	Defenses to Criminal Liability- Excuses. Brief - <u>Oliver v. State</u>	Chapter 8
11/14/05	Crimes against a person - Homicide Brief - <u>State v. Stewart</u>	Chapter 9
11/21/05	Crimes against a person - Assaults, Sex Crimes Brief - <u>State v. Bonds.</u>	Chapter 10
11/28/05	Crimes against Property - Burglary, Arson. Brief - <u>Hurston v. State</u>	Chapter 11
12/05/05	Dead Week, Review	Chapters 7 -11.
12/12/05	<b><u>Final Examination.</u></b> 5:30 p.m.	