

# Criminal Law

LAW-507-005  
Tues.-Thurs. 6:00-7:50PM  
Room Y116  
**Syllabus--FINAL**

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Office: room Y354  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00-4:00PM; Thursdays 5:00-6:00PM<sup>1</sup>

Course Materials: The required textbook for this class is *Criminal Law: Concepts and Practice* (4<sup>th</sup> edition), authored by Podgor, Henning, Garcia & Jones.<sup>2</sup> Supplemental course materials will be posted on MyWCL throughout the semester.

The Ground Rules: Class will be taught using a combination of the Socratic method, lecture, and in-class student presentations. You must select a seat for the semester, sign the seating chart, and use that seat for the remainder of the semester. You will also be given a tent card to use throughout the semester. Please have the tent card clearly displayed at the start of each class. Class attendance will be taken, and attendance is mandatory. If you miss an excessive number of classes you may not be eligible to receive credit for the course and you will not be permitted to take the final exam. Therefore, if circumstances arise (e.g., medical, family emergency) that will cause you to miss two or more successive classes you must inform the Dean of Students Office immediately. PLEASE do not contact me each time you miss a single class.

Class Participation: Active class participation is required. During each class I will randomly call on students to answer hypothetical questions and discuss assigned reading material. It is critical that you bring the textbook and come prepared for every class. If you are not prepared you can use a “no pressure” pass and volunteer the following class. You will be eligible to receive a step increase in your final grade if you: (1) report to class regularly; (2) are consistently prepared when called on; (3) make (in my subjective opinion) a substantial (quality, not quantity) contribution to the class discussion that demonstrates your mastery of the legal analysis; and (4) perform well on the assigned oral advocacy exercises. Conversely, if you miss multiple classes and are repeatedly unprepared when called on in class your final grade for the course may be lowered by one step.

Class Recording: As a matter of policy--except for make-up classes and *extreme emergencies*—I will not record classes and you may not make a recording of any class without my express

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<sup>1</sup> You can book an appointment during office hours on MyWCL, or you email me to arrange an appointment outside of office hours.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that the textbook was significantly revised in 2017, and you will need to use the **Fourth Edition** for this class. You can purchase the book from several variety on-line sites, including the publisher, Carolina Academic Press, where you can get a 10% discount if you make an online purchase from their website at [www.caplaw.com](http://www.caplaw.com). For your convenience, there are two copies of the textbook available throughout the semester at the circulation desk in the WCL library. Also, a PDF of chapters 1 & 2 of the textbook are posted on MyWCL.

permission. If there is a medical or family emergency you can email me, and I will arrange for the class(es) to be recorded. Otherwise, if you miss a class it is your responsibility to obtain class notes, reading assignments, and any handouts from your fellow classmates.

The Exam: The final exam will have both multiple choice and essay questions. My old criminal law exams and model answers will be posted on MyWCL.

<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>	<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students will learn substantive criminal law principles</li> <li>2. Students will learn how to read and interpret criminal statutes</li> <li>3. Students will be able to engage in a critical analysis of the effectiveness of the constitutional and procedural safeguards throughout the criminal adjudication process in preventing and miscarriages of justice</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Throughout the semester students will be required to use substantive criminal law principles to provide an oral analysis of the criminal liability and potential criminal defenses</li> <li>2. Students will be required to give an in-class presentation and demonstrate their ability to analyze specific legal and policy issues in criminal law</li> <li>3. Students will be required to draft a thorough legal analysis of potential criminal liability and various defenses to criminal charges</li> <li>4. Students will be able to answer objective questions on basic principles of criminal law and the criminal justice system</li> </ol>

## Class Schedule & Reading Assignments

### Part I: Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

DATE	Subjects Covered	Required Reading
Jan. 9th	The Criminal Adjudication Process	Textbook pages 1-21 MyWCL “Arrest to Sentencing” Chart
Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Jury Nullification Film: “ <i>Inside the Jury Room</i> ”	Textbook pages 26-27 MyWCL: 1. <a href="#">People v. Iannicelli</a> 2. <a href="#">Schmidter v. State</a> 3. The Dontee Stokes Case
Jan. 16th <i>Student Presentations</i>	Wrongful Convictions	Textbook pages 22-25 MyWCL: Wrongful Convictions Profile Exercise

### Part II: Principles of Punishment

Jan 18th	The Goals of Punishment	Textbook pages 31-36; 39-49
Jan 23rd	Death Penalty	Textbook pages 59-75 MyWCL: Death Penalty Fact Sheet
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> <i>Student Presentations</i>	Mock Sentencing Hearings	MyWCL: 1. Kevin Kelly 2. Kemba Smith 3. Dharvan Ravi 4. Brock Turner 5. Soon Ja Du <sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> This very graphic [video](#) captures the actual shooting of Latasha Harkins by Soon Ja Du. This [article](#) provides a recent update on the aftermath of the case.

Part III: Criminal Statutes and Elements of a Crime

Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Interpretation	Textbook pages 79-85; 88-90; 110-11
Feb. 1st	Actus Reus & Mens Rea (Part I)	Textbook pages 113-25; 130-35; 137-147 MyWCL: Calibrations Chart
Feb. 6th	Mens Rea (Part II)	Textbook pages 147-175
Feb. 8th	Strict Liability Offenses & Property Offenses	Textbook pages 193 (note 2)-196 & 387-400 (thru n.6); 402-406 (notes 9, 11, 12 & 13) MyWCL: 1. Garnett 2. Theft & Property Offenses Chart

Part IV: Homicide

Feb. 13th	Intentional Murders  First Degree (Premeditated) Murder & Second Degree Murder (Specific Intent to Kill)	Textbook pages 271-293  MyWCL: 1. Homicide Chart 2. D.C. Jury Instructions
Feb. 27th	Voluntary Manslaughter	Textbook pages 301-310 MyWCL: <u>State v. Norman</u>
Feb. 27th	Unintentional Murders  Felony Murder	Textbook pages 320-330; 332-36
March 1st	Second Degree Murder-- recklessness	Textbook pages 294-300 1. Rocks Thrown From Bridge 2. In re the death of Lawrence Ramdass

March 6th	Involuntary Manslaughter	Textbook pages 315-20 MyWCL: 1. Monalisa Perez 2. Michelle Carter <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZwgTv9w1aE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZwgTv9w1aE</a>
Mar. 8th  Student presentations	Homicide Legal Analysis Exercise & Homicide Review	MyWCL 1. Katie Quackenbush 2. Larry Dunn 3. Barbara Banks 4. The death of Cruz Velazquez <a href="https://youtu.be/7KsKtVnrRaM">https://youtu.be/7KsKtVnrRaM</a>

Mar. 20 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:20PM	Introduction to Sexual Assault Offenses	Textbook 356-68
Mar. 22 <sup>nd</sup> 6:00-7:20PM	Rape and Sexual Assault-- Consent and Use of Force	Textbook pages 342-52 MYWCL: DC Sexual Assault Laws & Sexual Assault Review Exercise
Mar. 27 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:50 <b>Student Presentations</b>	Mock Legislative Hearings  (nearly every student not assigned to do a presentation for the mock sentencing hearings earlier in the semester have been assigned a role for this in-class oral presentation)	Posted on MyWCL: 1. Instructions 2. Assignment chart
March 29 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:50 <b>Food Provided at 6:00PM</b>	Commons	Speakers and Presentations TBA
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Accomplice Liability Attempt	Textbook pages 425-29; 435-38 (n.1); 517-22 (n.5)
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Criminal Defenses: Alibi, Necessity, Duress, Insanity, Burden of Proof	Textbook pages 541-43; 546-47 (note 4); 629-31; 640-42 MyWCL: Criminal Defense Jury Instructions
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Self Defense	Textbook Pages 569-89
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Defense of Others Police Use of Deadly Force	Textbook Pages 601-607; 625-26 MyWCL 1. <u>Tennessee v. Garner</u> 2. Dept. of Justice Report on Chicago Police (select excerpt)
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Racial Bias in the Criminal Justice System	Textbook Pages 27-29; 76-79 MyWCL: To be posted
April 19 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:20PM  Section 5 Party Guapo's 7:30-9:30	Wrap-up & Review	