

CRIM 2306: Criminal Law

Fall 2016

Course Time and Location: Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 am – 12:45 pm in JSOM 2.803

Contact Information:

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Office Hours by appointment

Required Texts and Materials:

1. Criminal Law (11th edition) by Joycelyn M. Pollock ISBN-13: 9780323353977
2. A Case Study in the Insanity Defense: The Trial of John W. Hinckley, Jr. (3rd Edition) by Bonnie, Jefferies and Law. ISBN-13: 978-1599413846
3. Access to Blackboard for supplemental readings, PowerPoint presentations, and additional course materials.

Course Description

The course discusses the purpose, objective, and sources of criminal law; and the limitations placed upon those who make and enforce such laws. The difference between statutory law and common law is discussed. Constitutional challenges are reviewed. Principles of criminal liability and defenses as well as the elements of offenses are explored.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the definition of a crime, substantive criminal law, and procedural criminal law.
- Explain how law has been described as a social contract between citizens who give up some liberties in return for protection from others.
- Understand the origin of the common law and the difference between common law and statutory crimes.
- Understand the elements that make up a crime (parties, actus reus, mens rea, causation, and concurrence).
- Understand the origins and the elements of crimes.
- Understand the constitutional limitations on creating morality-based offenses.

Course Requirements

Course Reading

The required textbooks are available at the UT Dallas bookstore or you can purchase it from Amazon or another textbook retailer. Additional and supplemental readings may be posted on Blackboard and/or handed out in class. The schedule of readings is on the course schedule and you should read and understand each reading *before* class each day. Reading the assigned chapter(s) prior to the class in which it is discussed is one of the most important steps students can take to maximize their chances for academic success.

Exams

There will be two exams in this course. Each may consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. These exams will cover material from the readings and lecture.

Course Paper

Due by or before November 10, 2016

The course paper assignment will be handed out on the first day of class.

Class Participation and Attendance

Your class participation points are based upon class attendance and participation and are subjectively assessed by the instructor. You are encouraged to participate in class discussions by asking questions, sharing your observations, and giving examples of criminal justice issues in everyday life. Consistently looking down at your phone or texting during class is a sure way to hurt your grade in this area. You can participate effectively by completing the assigned readings prior to class. Please see the Class Participation Rubric for more guidance on how points may be allotted.

Tentative Schedule

A tentative course schedule will be handed out on the first day of class and posted on eLearning at that time.

Grading

Assignment	Points
Exam 1	___ / 150
Exam 2	___ / 150
Course Paper	___ / 50
Class Participation	___ / 50
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Total	___ / 400

Grade scale:

A	= 375 – 400 points
A-	= 358 – 374 points
B+	= 349 – 357 points
B	= 334 – 348 points
B-	= 320 – 333 points
C+	= 305 – 319 points
C	= 296 – 280 points
D	= 240 – 279 points
F	= below 239 points

Policies

Attendance Policy

Faithful attendance is expected and required in this class (lecture material not in the readings will appear on exams). With the exceptions of university approved absences (see <http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>), you are allowed **one** absence, after which you will lose 8 points per absence from your class participation point total (for example, if you have five absences, up to 40 points may be deducted from your final grade). If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes and materials from a classmate--it is not the instructor's responsibility to see that you are caught up. Any make-ups will be at the professor's discretion, will almost always involve a grade penalty, and must be completed within a week of the date. If you fall asleep during class time, text, study for another class, etc., you will be asked to leave (it is too distracting for the instructor and other students and is disrespectful to the class). The instructor reserves the right to implement a tardy policy if tardiness becomes a problem.

Computer Policy

You may be asked to discontinue use of your computer if it becomes a distraction. Whether your computer use has become a distraction is up to the discretion of the instructor.

Office Hours

I will be available to meet before or after class to discuss the readings, your projects, or other concerns you may have. I am also available to meet with you by appointment. If you need help, please ask! I do not know if you are having difficulties unless you make me aware of them. Please make an appointment with me to discuss any questions or concerns. Just because I do not have specific hours set does not mean I have not set aside enough time to assist you this semester.

For a full list of UTD Policies/Rules/Regulations please see: <http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>

Class Participation Score Rubric/ Guidelines*

Consistent Behavior:	Poor 0 – 69 Points	Minimal 70 – 79 Points	Satisfactory 80 – 89 Points	Good 90 – 100 Points
Degree of Participation	Does not contribute; Absent	Infrequent participation and only when called upon by Instructor	Participates but does not usually take lead	Takes lead in asking questions and offering comments
Quality of Participation	Irrelevant and incomprehensible comments	Relevant but insufficient and only in bits and pieces. Some restatement of already presented comments	Offers relevant comments based on facts and concepts discussed in class. Offers original thoughts, though often not fully developed	Offers quality, relevant, well-articulated comments. Adds critical information and original perspective
Preparation	Makes improvised and uninformed comments	Comments seem to be partially informed but reflect gaps in understanding and preparation	Comments are context –specific and reflect good preparation of the assigned material	Comments are insightful and reflect thorough preparation of the assigned material and builds upon previous learning
Behavior and Receptiveness	Often displays disruptive behavior; not respectful of others; tardiness	May not be receptive to others' comments; may show disrespect; sporadic tardiness	At times, may not be receptive/willing to listen to others' comments but is not disrespectful; rarely is tardy	Never displays disruptive or disrespectful behavior. Listens to and considers feedback from others; never is tardy
Engaged in Class	Tries to hide use of class-prohibited web browsing and social media; has side conversations with other students; does other course work during class time	Does not use class-prohibited technology; some side conversations with other students; does other course work during class time (e.g., studying for another exam)	Not doing other work during class or having side conversations, but hardly engaged in the class	Actively engaged in class with good eye contact, nodding head, taking notes; asks clarifying questions; active listening
Absences	5+ Classes	4 Classes	2 - 3 Classes	0-1 Class

*These are representative elements of a Class Participation Score (NOT a complete list/

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Date :</u>	<u>Reading Assignments</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Tuesday, August 23, 2016		<i>No Class</i>
Thursday, August 25, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 1	Defining Crime and Introduction to the Course
Tuesday, August 30, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 1	Defining Crime
Thursday, September 1, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 2	Criminal Liability
Tuesday, September 6, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 2	Criminal Liability
Thursday, September 8, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 3 & Hinckley Text	Capacity and Defenses
Tuesday, September 13, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 3 & Hinckley Text	Capacity and Defenses
Thursday, September 15, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 4	Attempt and Conspiracy
Tuesday, September 20, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 4	Attempt and Conspiracy
Thursday, September 22, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 5	Offenses Against Persons
Tuesday, September 27, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 5	Offenses Against Persons
Thursday, September 29, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 6	Sex Crimes
Tuesday, October 4, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 6	Sex Crimes
Thursday, October 6, 2016	No Reading	Midterm Exam
Tuesday, October 11, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 7	Offenses Against Property
Thursday, October 13, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 7	Offenses Against Property
Tuesday, October 18, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 8	Offenses Involving Theft and Deception
Thursday, October 20, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 8	Offenses Involving Theft and Deception
Tuesday, October 25, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 9	Offenses Against Morality and Decency
Thursday, October 27, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 9	Offenses Against Morality and Decency
Tuesday, November 1, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 10	Offenses Against Public Peace
Thursday, November 3, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 10	Offenses Against Public Peace
Tuesday, November 8, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 11	Offenses Against Justice Administration
Thursday, November 10, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 11	Offenses Against Justice Administration
Tuesday, November 15, 2016	No Reading	<i>No Class ASC Conference</i>
Thursday, November 17, 2016	No Reading	<i>No Class ASC Conference</i>
Tuesday, November 22, 2016	No Reading	<i>Fall Break</i>
Thursday, November 24, 2016	No Reading	<i>Fall Break</i>
Tuesday, November 29, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 12	Corporate Crime
Thursday, December 1, 2016	Textbook, Chapter 12	Corporate Crime
Tuesday, December 6, 2016	No Reading	Final Exam

*This schedule is tentative and subject to change with notice from the instructor.