

## CRIMINAL LAW 110C

Western State University College of Law  
Professor Stacey Sobel  
Fall Semester 2013

### Course Information

Section 110 C: Meeting time – Thursday, 6:30-9:45  
Online Course Materials: TWEN, sign up by August 31  
Office: 714-459-1186  
Email: ssobel@wsulaw.edu

Office hours: Thursdays 5:00-6:15 and by appointment. I may schedule additional office hours at particular times during the semester. You will be notified in class and/or via TWEN of when those hours will occur. Meetings during office hours should be scheduled in the book maintained by the faculty staff assistant on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. If you cannot make an appointment during regular office hours, please email me to schedule a meeting. Meetings should be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. If they are made less than 24 hours in advance, I may make alternative plans and might not be available to meet. If you need to cancel a meeting or if you will be late, please contact me.

### Required Text

Dressler, *Cases and Materials on Criminal Law*, (6<sup>th</sup> ed., West)

### Recommended Text

Dressler, *Understanding Criminal Law, 5th Edition* (Lexis Publishing)  
Levenson, *The Glannon Guide to Criminal Law 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Aspen Publishers)  
Dressler, *Sum & Substance Audio on Criminal Law, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* (4<sup>th</sup> edition is acceptable if you have already purchased it) with Summary Supplement (MP3) (Audio CD) 7 CD Set

I do not recommend commercial briefs and they are not permitted in class.

**Reading and Class Participation** – Students are expected to complete the assigned reading prior to class. All students are expected to engage in class discussion. Participation is key to making this class enjoyable, so I expect everyone to be prepared to intelligently discuss and critically evaluate that day's assignment in class. In particular, be prepared to discuss the pertinent facts, issues, law and court findings and rulings of each case. I use a combination of cold-calling and volunteers for class discussion. For volunteer participation, I value quality over quantity, but being an active participant is important. All views are welcomed. A consistent lack of preparation may result in a grade reduction of up to .3 (e.g., from 3.3 to 3.0) on a student's course grade. Exemplary performance may result in a grade increase of .1 (e.g., from 3.0 to a 3.1) on a student's course grade.

**Attendance** – The WSU policy on required attendance at all classes will be followed: attendance under 85% of scheduled classes during a semester will result in a failing grade absent extenuating circumstances. Students who are late may be considered absent at the discretion of the professor. Students who know that they will be late or absent should email me prior to class if possible.

**Examinations and Grading** – The course grade is based on one mid-term and a final exam. The mid-term is an essay exam and comprises 20% of your grade. The mid-term covers the assigned readings from the beginning of the semester until the mid-term. The final examination counts as 80% of your grade and covers all materials for the semester. There may be occasional on-line quizzes for pass-fail credit. Failure to complete or pass a quiz may result in a grade reduction of up to .3.

**Ethics** – Ethics are an important part of the practice of law. All students should be familiar with WSU's Honor Code. Any violation of law school rules and regulations relating to cheating, plagiarism, or other ethical matters addressed in the Honor Code will be vigorously enforced.

## **COURSE READING**

Aug. 22	<u>Introduction, Criminal Statutes, Actus Reus</u> 1-13, 92-105, 113-119, 127-136
Aug. 29	<u>Actus Reus Cont., Mens Rea</u> 136-148, 149-168, People v. Heitzman (TWEN)
Sep. 5	<u>Mens Rea Cont.</u> 170-175, 186-212
Sep. 12	<u>Causation, Homicide</u> 213-234, 235-240, 254-265
Sep. 19	<u>Homicide Cont.</u> 265-284, 291-313
Sep. 26	<u>Homicide Cont., Rape</u> 318-338, 390-392, 397-415, 419-428
Oct. 3	<u>Rape, Practice Exam</u> 429-439, 446-449
Oct. 10	<u>Mid-term, Inchoate Crimes – Theft</u> 893-910
Oct. 17	<u>Theft Cont., Attempt</u> 911-927, People v. Estes, (TWEN), 711-732

- Oct. 24                    Attempt, Assault, Solicitation, Conspiracy  
737-745, 759-765, 772-796
- Oct. 31                    Conspiracy Cont., Accomplice Liability  
796-818, 828-848
- Nov. 7                     Accomplice Liability Cont., Self Defense  
848-857, 864-868, 481-521
- Nov. 14                   Defense of Others, Defense of Property, Necessity, Duress, Intoxication  
530-544, 553-559, 564-567, 572-576, 584-592
- Nov. 21                   Review  
Practice Exams
- Nov. 28                   No Class (Thanksgiving)
- Final Exam – Wednesday, December 11