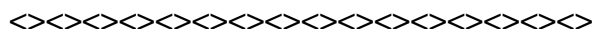




CRIMINAL LAW 110§A
Professor Elizabeth N. Jones
enjones@wsulaw.edu

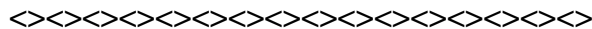
Fall 2021
M & W 10:45 am – 12:15 pm



REQUIRED TEXT

Dressler & Garvey, *Criminal Law Cases and Materials* (8th ed., West Publ.)

Students must enroll in the Lexis Classroom page titled “CrimLaw-110A-F21-Jones” with PassCode: K3A7GF



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course covers general principles and policies of criminal law as well as substantive “black letter” doctrine. Topics include the basic components required to criminalize behavior, crimes against the person, crimes against property, inchoate crimes, crimes of complicity, and affirmative defenses. Prosecuting and defending those accused of committing crime is a critical area of the law; this course provides the foundation necessary to understand, and critically analyze, this important subject matter.

ATTENDANCE, EXAMINATIONS, & GRADES

Class attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than four (4) class sessions are subject to administrative dismissal from the course per the WSCL Attendance Policy (reprinted in the Student Handbook).

Students earn a numeric grade for the course. The final course grade will consist of two “closed book” examinations: a midterm (during a regularly scheduled class) and a three-hour final examination. Final grades will be based on the midterm (15%), the final examination (70%), and P&P (participation & professionalism) (15%).

PARTICIPATION, PROFESSIONALISM, & PREPARATION

Participation & Professionalism (P&P): Law school success often involves an active learning environment. Please do the assigned reading (and re-read any material you do not fully understand) prior to class, listen to everything said in class, and refrain from multi-tasking (checking social media, thinking about other courses, etc) during class. This Crim Law class only meets twice a week for 180 total minutes; devote yourself fully to this class time to derive its maximum benefits.

For volunteer participation, quality is valued over quantity, but being an active and engaged participant is important. All views are welcome.

15% of your final course grade will be based on the quality & quantity of your contributions to class discussions, preparation for class, attendance, punctuality, and conduct during class time.

You may not record this class without my prior approval. Students in violation of course policies may be referred to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Outside Preparation: Criminal Law is a bar-tested topic and a graduation requirement. You should anticipate that, on average, preparing your weekly reading and brief writing will take you a minimum of two hours for every one hour of class time. To repeat with specificity and at risk of redundancy: because Criminal Law is a three-unit class, you should estimate your preparation for class to require six (6) or more hours outside of class to complete.

LEARNING GOALS

After completion of this course, students should be able to:

- ◆ Understand the elements and policies of basic crimes and defenses.
- ◆ Identify the factual and legal issues implicated by a fact pattern.
- ◆ Apply and distinguish cases, with the ability to identify the salient features of an appropriate precedent case and to identify and explain legally significant similarities and differences between the precedent case and a fact pattern.
- ◆ Apply rules to facts, with the ability to articulate a rule implicated by the issue, to identify legally significant facts in a fact pattern, and to explain why the facts are significant by connecting the facts to the requirement(s) of the rule.

OFFICE HOURS

F21 Office Hours TBA



SYLLABUS

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF CRIMINAL LAW

WEEK 1: Monday August 23 & Wednesday August 25

Introduction: Overview of Criminal Law Principles & Components
pp. 6-11(thru n.2); 38-41; 95-100; 114-120; 129-132; 140 (n.8 & n.9); 144(n.2)

WEEK 2: Monday August 30 & Wednesday September 1

Criminal Law Components, continued
pp. 157-158; 161-178; 196-197(n.2)

WEEK 3: Wednesday September 8 (no class Labor Day M 9/6)

Criminal Law Components, continued
pp. 233-242(thru n.7); 244-247

CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

WEEK 4: Monday September 13 & Wednesday September 15

Homicide: Intentional Killings (First Degree Murder \leftrightarrow Voluntary Manslaughter)
pp. 251-256; 270-288

WEEK 5: Monday September 20 & Wednesday September 22

Homicide: Unjustified Risk Taking (Second Degree Murder \leftrightarrow Involuntary Manslaughter)
pp. 313-319(thru n.4); 322-327(thru n.7); 329-332

WEEK 6: Monday September 27 & Wednesday September 29

Rape
pp. 403; 436-445; 449-459; 473-476

WEEK 7: Monday October 4 & Wednesday October 6

Review (Monday) & **MIDTERM** (Wednesday)

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

WEEK 8: Monday October 11 & Wednesday October 13

Theft Offenses

pp. 947-957(thru n.5); 964-971; 977-982

INCOMPLETE CRIMES & CRIMES OF COMPLICITY

WEEK 9: Monday October 18 & Wednesday October 20

Attempt

pp. 752-753; 767-772; 779-787

WEEK 10: Monday October 25 & Wednesday October 27

Solicitation; Conspiracy; Accomplice Liability

pp. 817-820; 822-830; 843-849; 877-883; 895-901

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

WEEK 11: Monday November 1 & Wednesday November 3

Self Defense

pp. 513; 516-532; 540(n.8)-541(thru n.9)

WEEK 12: Monday November 8 & Wednesday November 10

Intoxication (Voluntary & Involuntary); Necessity; Duress

pp. 626-629; 632-633(n.6); 580-583; 585(n.2); 594-601; 605-609

WEEK 13: Monday November 15 & Wednesday November 17

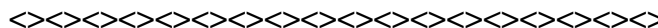
Insanity; Infancy

pp. 633-644; 690-697

WEEK 14: No Classes Thanksgiving Week

WEEK 15: Monday November 29

Wrap-Up & Review



Disability Services Statement: Western State College of Law provides accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. The Disabilities Services Office assists qualified students with disabilities in acquiring reasonable and appropriate accommodations and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities at Western State College of Law. To seek reasonable accommodations, a student must contact Senior Assistant Dean Donna Espinoza, Student Services Director and Disabilities Services Coordinator, whose office is in the Students Services Suite. Dean Espinoza's phone number and email address are: (714) 459-1117; despinoza@wsulaw.edu. When seeking accommodations, a student should notify Dean Espinoza of her or his specific limitations and, if known, her or his specific requested accommodations. Students who seek accommodations will be asked to supply medical documentation of the need for accommodation. Classroom accommodations are not retroactive but are effective only upon the student sharing approved accommodations with the instructor or professor. Therefore, students are encouraged to request accommodations as early as feasible with Dean Espinoza to allow for time to gather necessary documentation. If you have a concern or complaint in this regard, please notify Dean Espinoza; or please notify Dean Allen Easley at aeasley@wsulaw.edu or (714) 459-1168. Complaints will be handled in accordance with the College of Law's "Policy against Discrimination and Harassment."

Western State College of Law Programmatic Learning Outcomes: Western State College of Law's curriculum is designed so that every student achieves a level of competency prior to graduation in each of the eight Programmatic Learning Outcomes listed below:

- (1) **Doctrinal Knowledge:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of substantive and procedural law in the core curriculum subjects, including Contracts, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Torts, Property, Business Associations, Evidence, Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Estates, Community Property, Remedies, and Professional Responsibility.
- (2) **Practice Skills:** Students will demonstrate the development of other law practice skills. Each student's chosen outcomes within this category will be varied based on the student's particular interests, coursework and work experiences. They may include, but are not limited to, the following topics: oral presentation and advocacy; interviewing; counseling; client service and business development; negotiations, mediation, arbitration, or other alternate dispute resolution methods; advanced legal research and writing (excluding purely academic papers and the first four units earned in introductory first-year legal research and writing class); applied legal writing such as drafting contracts, pleadings, other legal instruments; law practice management or the use of technology in law practice; cultural competency; collaboration or project management; financial analysis, such as accounting, budgeting project management, and valuation; cost benefit analysis in administrative agencies; use of technology, data analyses, or predictive coding; business strategy and behavior; pre-trial preparation, fact investigation, such as discovery, e-discovery, motion practice, assessing evidence, or utilizing experts; trial practice; professional civility and applied ethics; a law clinic that includes a classroom component; or a legal externship that includes a classroom component.
- (3) **Legal Analysis:** Students will demonstrate the ability to identify the factual and legal issues implicated by a fact pattern and to appropriately use cases (including identifying the salient features of an appropriate precedent case, identifying legally significant similarities or differences between the precedent case and a fact pattern and explaining why those are legally significant) and rules (including the ability to connect legally significant facts in a fact pattern to the rule) to predict how a court would decide the issue. Students will also demonstrate the ability to identify and evaluate the public policies of a precedent case or rule, and be able to evaluate how public policy can impact the application of a rule to the legal issue.
- (4) **Legal Research:** Students will demonstrate the ability to locate relevant legal authority using a variety of book and electronic resources, and to properly cite to such legal authority.
- (5) **Communication:** Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate both orally and in writing in a manner appropriate to a particular task to effectively convey the author or speaker's ideas. This includes audience sensitivity in written and oral communication (the ability to adopt a tone, style and level of detail appropriate to the needs, knowledge and expertise of the audience); and written communication basic proficiency (the ability to use the conventions of grammar, spelling, punctuation, diction and usage appropriate to the task and sufficient to convey effectively the author's ideas).
- (6) **Advocacy of Legal Argument:** Students will demonstrate the ability, in both oral and written formats, to evaluate the legal, economic and social strengths and weaknesses of a case and use case and statutory authority as well as public policy to persuade others. Making policy-based arguments includes the ability to identify and evaluate the public policies of a precedent case or rule and their implications, and be able to assert such appropriate arguments to support a particular application or distinction of a precedent case to a legal controversy or a particular resolution of the application of a rule to the legal controversy.
- (7) **Client Sensitivity and Cultural Competency:** Students will demonstrate an awareness of clients' needs and goals, including a sensitivity to clients' background and circumstances (including, but not limited to, socio-economic, gender, race, ethnicity, educational, disability and/or religious background(s)), the ability to make decisions that reflect an appropriate focus on those needs and goals, and awareness that cultural issues may affect the relevance of facts and application of the law.
- (8) **Legal Ethics:** Students will demonstrate the ability to identify ethical issues in law practice contexts and make appropriate decisions to resolve such issues.

If it is necessary to return to remote teaching - Requirements for Students in Zoom Sessions:

- Find a dedicated quiet space to attend Zoom sessions, to minimize the chances that you will be disrupted during the session.
- Arrive to class early and dressed as you would to attend an in-person class.
- Your camera must be turned on for the duration of the class. If desired, you can use the background settings in Zoom to create an artificial background that blocks the view of your space while still allowing you to be seen on camera.
- Come prepared, as you would for an in-person class. Participation in Zoom classes is as important as it is during an in-person class session.
- Do not multitask – stay focused on the class discussion – do not wander in and out of the Zoom session.
- If you have to miss a Zoom session, or arrive late or leave early, notify the professor in advance, as you would for an in-person class.
- If you have connectivity issues, whether it be long-term or short-term, that impact your ability to participate (e.g., if you are limited to dial-in without video), notify your professor so other accommodations can be explored.
- Do not post screenshots or recordings of any Zoom classes on social media. Such actions would constitute a violation of the Student Honor Code. If you need access to a recording of the Zoom session, please contact your professor.