

LSTD203

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : LSTD203 **Title :** Criminal Law and Procedure for the Paralegal

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This course will examine the practical aspects of criminal law and procedure as they pertain to the work of the paralegal. The course covers the nature of criminal liability, the elements of various crimes, and defenses to criminal accusations. The course will also cover criminal procedure, from search and seizure through trial and appeal. Constitutional issues relating to search and seizure, self-incrimination and other matters are explored in depth. Students learn how to prepare relevant legal documents.

Course Scope:

This course is divided into 8 weeks and is organized to give students a broad overview of criminal law and procedure and the specific role of the paralegal. The course will give an overview of the structure of the criminal legal system. It includes general information on criminal procedure and practical exercises to help the student learn to implement the role of the paralegal. The instruction is primarily textbook driven with a combination of weekly assignments and forum questions.

Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the Criminal Law System.
2. Define the sources of Criminal Law.
3. Differentiate among the agencies involved in the Criminal Law System.
4. Give examples of the role of the paralegal in the Criminal Law System.
5. Demonstrate the tasks required of the paralegal at each of the procedural steps in a criminal trial.
6. Understand how to perform practical paralegal tasks such as intake, assigning charges, and drafting a Criminal complaint.
7. Explore new and growing areas of crime, such as cybercrime and healthcare fraud.

Outline

Week 1: Intro to Criminal Law

Topics

Chapter 1: Defining Crimes

Chapter 2: Principles of Criminal Liability

Readings

Review the Weekly Lessons for week 1 located under the Lessons tab in the classroom. Click on the Readings and Resources link to access the readings.

Course/Learning Objectives:

CO-1: Describe the Criminal Law System.

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LO-1: Understand definitions of crimes

LO-2: Articulate purposes of criminal law and punishment

LO-3: Describe Constitutional rights afforded criminal defendants

LO-4: Explain the generic elements of and potential parties to a crime

LO-5: Review the requirements of Criminal Intent

Forums

Introduce yourself on the Forum. Please tell some of your background and why you are interested in legal studies. Your introduction should be posted by **Wednesday** and you need to reply to two classmates by Sunday night for full credit.

Respond to Part 2 of the Forum for Week 1. Your initial post is due **Wednesday** and 2 replies to classmates are due Sunday of this week. Initial posts to the Forum must be a minimum of 500 words, and follow up posts in Forum are 250 words minimum. ALL posts should have sources and citations in bluebook format.

Week 2: Defenses

Topics

Chapter 3: Capacity and defenses

Chapter 4: Preparatory activity offenses

Readings

Review the Weekly Lessons for week 1 located under the Lessons tab in the classroom. Click on the Readings and Resources link to access the readings.

Course/Learning Objectives

CO-2: Define the sources of Criminal Law.

LO-6: Understand the elements of defenses to criminal conduct.

LO-7: Describe the elements of conspiracy, attempt and solicitation offenses.

Forum

Week 2 Forum on self-defense and Stand Your Ground laws: Initial Post due Wednesday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week.

Week 3: Crimes

Topics

Chapter 5: Offenses against persons - excluding sex offenses

Chapter 6: Offenses against persons - sex-related

Readings

Review the Weekly Lessons for week 3 located under the Lessons tab in the classroom. Click on the Readings and Resources link to access the readings.

Course/Learning Objectives

CO-3: Differentiate among the agencies involved in the Criminal Law System.

CO-4: Give examples of the role of the paralegal in the Criminal Law System.

LO-8: Murder including its degrees and elements

LO-9: Voluntary and Involuntary Manslaughter

LO-10: Different types of sex offenses and elements

LO-11: Battery, Assault, Domestic Violence and Stalking

LO-12: Kidnapping and False Imprisonment

Forum

Week 3 Forum on Statutory Rape: Initial Post due Wednesday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week.

Week 4: Midterm

Topics

Review Chapters 1-6 for midterm.

Readings

Review the Weekly Lessons for week 4 located under the Lessons tab in the classroom. Click on the Readings and Resources link to access the readings.

Course/Learning Objectives

CO-5: Demonstrate the tasks required of the paralegal at each of the procedural steps in a criminal trial.

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LO-13: Explain the role and tasks of a paralegal in connection with case intake

LO-14: Describe the criminal process from charging through appeal

Assignment

Take the Midterm Exam. Submit the exam no later than the last day of Week 4. If you need more time, contact your instructor prior to the exam due date.

Week 5: Offenses Against Property

Topics

Chapter 7: Offenses against property: destruction and intrusion offenses

Chapter 8: Offenses involving theft

Readings

Review the Weekly Lessons for week 5 located under the Lessons tab in the classroom. Click on the Readings and Resources link to access the readings.

Course/Learning Objectives

CO-6: Understand how to perform practical paralegal tasks such as intake, assigning charges, and drafting a Criminal complaint.

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LO-15: Describe theft of property in its various forms.

LO-16: Understand the legal concept of burglary.

LO-17: Articulate the requirements for the crime of arson.

Assignment

Case Essay due- see the Assignemnts section of the classroom for details.

Forum

Week 5 Forum on false pretenses: Initial Post due Wednesday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week.

Week 6: Morality and Public Decency

Topics

Chapter 9: Offenses involving morality and decency

Chapter 10: Offenses against public peace

Readings

Review the Weekly Lessons for week 6 located under the Lessons tab in the classroom. Click on the Readings and Resources link to access the readings.

Course/Learning Objectives

CO-7: Explore new and growing areas of crime, such as cybercrime and healthcare fraud.

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LO-18: Define offenses involving morality and decency.

LO-19: Describe offenses against public peace.

LO-20: Review drug laws.

LO-21: Learn about counterterrorism laws.

Forum

Week 6 Forum on prostitution: Initial Post due Wednesday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week.

Week 7: Other Kinds of Crime

Topics

Chapter 11: Offenses against justice administration

Chapter 12: Business and corporate crimes

Readings

Review the Weekly Lessons for week 7 located under the Lessons tab in the classroom. Click on the Readings and Resources link to access the readings.

Course/Learning Objectives

CO-7: Explore new and growing areas of crime, such as cybercrime and healthcare fraud.

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LO-22: Explain crimes involving the administration of justice.

LO-23: Explore crimes related to corporate liability.

LO-24: Understand the new frontier of computer crimes.

LO-25: Describe crimes related to tax evasion and money laundering.

Forum

Week 7 Forum on obstruction of justice: Initial Post due Wednesday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week.

Assignment

Complete the second Supreme Court Essay, found in the Assignments section and due the last day of week

7.

Week 8: Final Exam

Topics

Final Exam will cover the entire course.

Exam

Take open-book Final Exam. The exam must be submitted by the last day of Week 8.

Evaluation

ASSIGNMENTS AND FORUM DISCUSSIONS:

There are two Supreme Court Essay Assignments, one due at the end of Week 5 and the other due at the end of Week 7. See the Assignment section for more information.

There are also seven (7) Forum questions with required responses to fellow students. See the Course Outline below for more information.

Each substantive forum requires an initial post of at least 500 words, plus citations in bluebook format, which is due Wednesday night. At least two 250+ word replies to classmates – or your professor – with citations are required by Sunday night. The only exception to these minimum word requirements is for the “Introduce Yourself” Forum in Week One. For that Forum, your initial introduction must be at least 250 words, and your replies to classmates do not have minimum word requirements although two responses are required for full credit. Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in loss of points.

Use the Blue Book format for all citations. Example, for cases: *York v. Smith*, 65 U.S. 294 (1995). Blue Book citation format is required all citations in this course (including citations of the textbook). For further information see various Resources in the classroom concerning proper Blue Book citation format or contact your instructor. Failure to give proper attribution to sources and failure to adhere to property citation format will result in point loss and may also result in referral for disciplinary action for violation of the University’s Plagiarism Policy.

FINAL AND MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS:

The midterm and final exams will be taken open book and with unlimited time. The exams will be posted in the electronic classroom under “exams”. These exams will be a mix of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essays.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	34.00 %
Forum Week 1, #2	5.67 %
Forum Week 2	5.67 %
Forum Week 3	5.67 %
Forum Week 5	5.67 %
Forum Week 6	5.67 %
Forum Week 7	5.67 %
Written Assignments	15.00 %
Week 5 - Supreme Court essay 1	7.50 %

Week 7 - Supreme Court Essay 2	7.50 %
Midterm Exam	25.00 %
Midterm Examination	25.00 %
Final Exam	25.00 %
Final Examination	25.00 %
Forum Introduction	1.00 %
Forum Week 1 - Introduction	1.00 %

Materials

Book Title: Bluebook: Uniform System of Citation, 20th ed. - available online through the APUS Online Library: <http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=https://www.legalbluebook.com>

Author: Harvard, Columbia Law Review

Publication Info: Harvard, Columbia Law Review

ISBN: 9780692400197

Book Title: Criminal Law, 11th ed. - e-book available in the APUS Online Library; link also provided in the classroom Lessons section

Author: Pollock

Publication Info: Routledge

ISBN: 9780323353977

Course Guidelines

Writing Expectations

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. They should use correct grammar and checked for spelling and other errors prior to submission. Specific details are provided in the assignment section as assignment formats vary. Uploaded documents in the assignment section should be in word (.doc, .docx) format. Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will automatically analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism or overuse of quotes for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The expectation is that the writing will be in your words after analysis of the sources.

Citation and Reference Style

The central function of legal citation is to allow the reader to efficiently locate the cited source. All courses in the Legal Studies program require that any narrative essay or composition format follow the legal citation guidelines set forth in The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation. Do not purchase The Bluebook, as it is available at the APUS library. Use this link to access: <http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=https://www.legalbluebook.com>

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you

must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Deductions

Late forum posts, assignments, and exams may be penalized five (5) points per day.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

Technology Limitations: While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

Humor Note: Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :))

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan: The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

Electronic Books: You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.

Electronic Journals: The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

Tutor.com: AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Legal Studies Program Guide: This should be your starting point as you explore the resources available for the Legal Studies Program! <https://www.apus.edu/apus-library/online-research/research/research-guides/school-of-security-global-studies/legal-studies-para-legal-studies>

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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