

LSTD302

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 : LSTD302 **Title :** Criminal Law

Length of Course : 8

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

Description

Course Description: This course familiarizes the student with the basic law, procedures and rules that govern the criminal justice system in America. It is designed to produce students who can understand, appreciate and discuss the benefits and problems with the criminal justice system in America today. The students will become conversant with the Bill of Rights, basic criminal law terminology and procedures. The course emphasizes the principles of criminal liability and the acts, mental state, and attendant circumstances that are necessary ingredients in crimes against persons or property or in offenses involving theft, fraud, drugs, morality and decency, public peace, or public justice.

Course Scope:

LSTD302 is an undergraduate course, which familiarizes the student with the basic law, procedures and rules that govern the criminal justice system in America. It is designed to produce students who can understand, appreciate and discuss the benefits and problems with the criminal justice system in America today. The students will become conversant with the Bill of Rights, basic criminal law terminology and procedures. Because it is a survey course of a broad subject, it will out of necessity, cover each topic with a broad brush. However, the reference area and online conference room will allow a deeper look into any subject area that particularly attracts the student. The student will learn how to use the World Wide Web to research topics related to the material discussed and covered in the readings.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate and explain the following learning objectives:

CO-1: Examine the purpose and scope of criminal law in America and its sources.

CO-2: Evaluate the impact of constitutional protections, including the Bill of Rights, on the United States criminal legal system.

CO-3: Explain the definition of a crime and the classifications of crimes.

CO-4: Compare and contrast Civil and Criminal Law.

CO-5: Specify the roles of the federal and state governments and court systems in the United States criminal system.

CO-6: Analyze the concepts of mens rea, actus reus and corpus delicti as applied to the elements of a crime.

CO-7: Critique the decisions of the United States Supreme Court in landmark criminal law cases.

CO-8: Explain the various criminal defenses in the United States criminal legal system.

CO-9: Analyze inchoate offenses and how one becomes a party to a crime.

CO-10: Discuss the nature, purpose and elements of crimes against property, persons, the public and the government.

Outline

Week 1:

Topic(s)

Introduction to Criminal Law

The Legal System in the United States

Constitutional Protections

Weekly Learning Objective(s)

CO-1: Examine the purpose and scope of criminal law in America and its sources.

CO-2: Evaluate the impact of Constitutional protections, including the Bill of Rights, on the United States criminal legal system.

CO-4: Compare and contrast Civil and Criminal Law.

CO-5: Specify the roles of the federal and state governments and court systems in the United States criminal system.

Reading(s)

1. Chapters 1, 2, & 3 (Storm) Lisa M. Storm, Criminal Law (2012). Please access the readings through the folder entitled "Required Reading and Resources", found in the lesson tab.

Assignment(s)

Post your introduction in the Forum and respond to the forum question by Wednesday.

BE SURE TO RESPOND TO AT LEAST TWO OF YOUR CLASSMATES' POSTINGS BY SUNDAY NIGHT.

Week 2:

Topic(s)

The Elements of a Crime

Criminal Defenses, Part 1

Weekly Learning Objective(s)

CO-3: Explain the definition of a crime and the classifications of crimes.

CO-6: Analyze the concepts of men rea, actus rea and corpus delicti as applied to the elements of a crime.

CO-8: Explain the various criminal defenses in the United States criminal legal system.

Reading(s)

1. Chapters 4 & 5 (Storm) Please access the readings through the folder entitled "Required Reading and Resources", found in the lesson tab.

Assignment(s)

1) Respond to the posting in the forum for week 2.

BE SURE TO RESPOND TO AT LEAST TWO OF YOUR CLASSMATES' POSTINGS.

Week 3:

Topic(s)

Criminal Defenses, Part 2

Parties to Crime

Weekly Learning Objective(s)

CO-8: Explain the various criminal defenses in the United States criminal legal system.

CO-9: Analyze inchoate offenses and how one becomes a party to a crime.

Reading(s)

1. Chapters 6 & 7 (Storm) Please access the readings through the folder entitled "Required Reading and Resources", found in the lesson tab.

Assignment(s)

1) Respond to the posting in the forum for week 3.

BE SURE TO RESPOND TO AT LEAST TWO OF YOUR CLASSMATES' POSTINGS.

Week 4:

Topic(s)

Midterm exam

Weekly Learning Objective(s)

None

Reading(s)

Please review week 1-4 readings. Please access the readings through the folder entitled "Required Reading

and Resources", found in the lesson tab.

Assignment(s)

1) Take MIDTERM EXAM. (Exam will cover Chapters 1-7)

Week 5:

Topic(s)

Inchoate Offenses

Criminal Homicide

Weekly Learning Objective(s)

CO-9: Analyze inchoate offenses and how one becomes a party to a crime.

CO-10: Discuss the nature, purpose and elements of crimes against property, persons, the public and the government.

Reading(s)

1. Chapters 8 & 9 (Storm) Please access the readings through the folder entitled "Required Reading and Resources", found in the lesson tab.

Assignment(s)

1) Respond to the posting in the forum for week 5.

BE SURE TO RESPOND TO AT LEAST TWO OF YOUR CLASSMATES' POSTINGS.

Week 6:

Topic(s)

Sex Offenses and Crimes Involving Force, Fear, and Physical Restraint

Crimes against Property

Weekly Learning Objective(s)

CO-7: Critique the decisions of the United States Supreme Court in landmark criminal law cases.

CO-10: Discuss the nature, purpose and elements of crimes against property, persons, the public and the government.

Reading(s)

1. Chapters 10 & 11 (Storm) Please access the readings through the folder entitled "Required Reading and Resources", found in the lesson tab.

Assignment(s)

1) Respond to the posting in the forum for week 6.

BE SURE TO RESPOND TO AT LEAST TWO OF YOUR CLASSMATES' POSTINGS.

Week 7:

Topic(s)

Crimes against the Public

Crimes against the Government

Weekly Learning Objective(s)

CO-7: Critique the decisions of the United States Supreme Court in landmark criminal law cases.

CO-10: Discuss the nature, purpose and elements of crimes against property, persons, the public and the government.

Reading(s)

1. Chapters 12 & 13 (Storm) Please access the readings through the folder entitled "Required Reading and Resources", found in the lesson tab.

Assignment(s)

THIS IS A TWO PART ASSIGNMENT:

1) Respond to the posting in the forum for week 7.

2) This week you will practice writing a formal legal brief. Make sure to carefully read the instructions on how to write a brief located in the assignment and resources sections of the classroom.

Week 8:

Topic(s)

Weekly Learning Objective(s)

Reading(s)

Review weeks 1-8. Please access the readings through the folder entitled "Required Reading and Resources", found in the lesson tab.

Assignment(s)

TAKE FINAL EXAM

(Exam will cover Chapters 1-13)

Evaluation

Reading Assignments:

The Course Outline of this syllabus details the required reading assignments for the various weeks of the course. Each week of the course, with the exception of the week of the mid-term exam and the week of the final exam, includes a required reading assignment found in the ebook for this course.

Discussion Forums:

In addition to the required reading assignments, the student is also required to participate in the discussion forums. Please see the Forum section of the classroom for further details on the specific discussion forums and topics.

Each student is required to post an initial posting to the forum topic by **Wednesday** at midnight EST and the

student is then required to respond to at least two of their classmates on their submissions to the forum questions presented by **Sunday** at midnight EST. When applicable, students will conduct outside research on the issues and list references in Bluebook format. More information on Bluebook formatting can be found under the Resources tab in the classroom.

Exams:

The mid-term and final exams can be found under the Tests & Quizzes section of the classroom. All exams are open book and untimed. These exams are a mix of multiple choice, true/false and essay questions.

Assignment:

The written assignment for this class is to prepare a legal brief. The assignment instructions for the case brief can be found under the Assignments section of the classroom. To complete this assignment the student will implement a variety of skills that he or she acquired throughout the duration of the course. This assignment is due at the end of week 7.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Final Exam	25.00 %
Final Exam (due end of week 8)	25.00 %
Discussion Forums	35.00 %
Introduction Forum	5.00 %
Forum #1	5.00 %
Forum #2	5.00 %
Forum #3	5.00 %
Forum #5	5.00 %
Forum #6	5.00 %
Forum #7	5.00 %
Assignment	15.00 %
Legal Brief	15.00 %
Mid-term Exam	25.00 %
Mid-term Exam (due end of week 4)	25.00 %

Materials

Book Title: Criminal Law, v. 1.0- E-book links provided inside the classroom; no longer available to purchase in hard copy format

Author: Lisa Storm

Publication Info: FlatWorld Knowledge

ISBN: FLATWORLD-CRLAW

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

Course Guidelines

Writing Expectations

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. It is recommended that students try to adhere to a consistent format, which is described below.

Citation and Reference Style

The central function of legal citation is to allow the reader to efficiently locate the cited source. All students in the Legal Studies program are required to follow the legal citation guidelines set forth in *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (Columbia Law Review Ass'n et. al. eds., 20th ed. 2015). However, if you are a student from another discipline and you use APA, you may use APA in this class.

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: ;-), :), J

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 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.

Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOC111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

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

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

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