

LSTD502

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 : LSTD502 **Title :** Criminal Law

Length of Course : 8

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

Description

Course Description: This course is an advanced theory and practice of criminal law in the United States. The history, scope, and nature of criminal law will be discussed. This course will analyze the general nature of crime, constitutional limits on crime, and general principals of criminal liability. Topics include: legal language and machinery, parties to crime, classification of offenses, act and intent, capacity to commit crime, and various defenses. Primary emphasis will be the common law and modern statutory criminal codes. Students are provided knowledge of the building blocks of criminal law to include elements of crimes and defenses to criminal charges. The role of the police, criminal courts, and attorneys in the administration of the criminal justice system will be discussed in detail. The course will teach the student how to analyze and brief criminal cases and identify and discuss criminal issues. An overview of the criminal process and rules of evidence will be provided. This course focuses on the fundamental principles, concepts, and development of criminal law and the constitutional provisions which govern it. The course further discusses the relationship of the individual to the state and includes an examination of the general framework of criminal law as a means of social control.

Course Scope:

This course covers many aspects of the study of Criminal Law from the foundational aspects of Criminal Law in the United States to elements of various crimes to criminal defenses. The student will analyze aspects of Criminal Law through an in-depth study of the United States Constitution, statutes and case law, particularly Supreme Court case law. The course leads the student through an understanding of crimes against property, persons and the government. The student will also be exploring various current events in the Criminal Law arena and discussing some of the challenging issues that are present in the study of Criminal Law.

Objectives

After completing this course the student will be able to:

- Classify and grade criminal activity
- Identify and discuss the sources of criminal law
- Compare the theories of punishment for crimes
- Discuss the constitutional limitations on criminal law

- Identify parties to crime and the concept of vicarious liability
 - Analyze the uncompleted crimes of attempt, conspiracy and solicitation
 - Relate the justification defenses to criminal liability
 - Assess in detail current issues concerning the death penalty
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Outline

Week 1: Overview of Criminal Law Constitutional Limits

Learning Objectives

- A. Define a crime.
- B. Compare criminal law and criminal procedure.
- C. Compare civil and criminal law.
- D. Ascertain the primary differences between civil litigation and a criminal prosecution.
- E. Compare malum in se and malum prohibitum crimes.

Readings

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 1, found in the Lesson section of the classroom to include:

Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminal Law

Chapter 2: The Legal System in the United States

Much of the required reading is to read chapters in the ebook found in the Lessons section. Please note that within the chapters of the ebook, there are links which will take you to case law and articles. Please be sure to click on these links and read the material. The links to the videos will not work so we have provided these video links separately in the Readings and Resources section in the Lessons for each week. Unfortunately some of the videos are no longer accessible on the internet.

Assignment(s)

- (1) Post your autobiography in Forum;
- (2) Respond to the question posted in the Forum

Week 2: Constitutional Protections & The Elements of a Crime

Learning Objectives

- A. Distinguish between the two types of constitutional protections.
- B. Compare unconstitutional on its face with unconstitutional as applied.
- C. Distinguish among different standards of judicial review.
- D. Compare bill of attainder with ex post facto laws.
- E. Ascertain the three types of ex post facto laws.

F. Define the Bill of Rights.

Readings

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 2, found in the Lesson section of the classroom to include:

Chapter 3: Constitutional Protections

Chapter 4: The Elements of a Crime

Much of the required reading is to read chapters in the ebook found in the Lessons section. Please note that within the chapters of the ebook, there are links which will take you to case law and articles. Please be sure to click on these links and read the material. The links to the videos will not work so we have provided these video links separately in the Readings and Resources section in the Lessons for each week. Unfortunately some of the videos are no longer accessible on the internet.

Assignment(s)

(1) Complete the Supreme Court essay assignment – details in the Assignments link

(2) Respond to the question in the Forum

Week 3: Criminal Defenses, Part 1 & 2

Learning Objectives

A. Distinguish between a denial or failure of proof defense and an affirmative defense.

B. Distinguish between imperfect and perfect defenses.

C. Distinguish between factual and legal defenses.

D. Give examples of factual and legal defenses.

E. Distinguish between defenses based on justification and excuse.

F. Define self-defense.

Readings

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 3, found in the Lesson section of the classroom to include:

Chapter 5: Criminal Defenses, Part 1

Chapter 6: Criminal Defenses, Part 2

Assignment(s)

(1) Complete the Supreme Court essay Peer Review assignment – details in the Assignments link

(2) Respond to the question posed in the Forum

Week 4: Parties to Crime & Inchoate Offenses

Learning Objectives

A. Identify the four parties to crime at early common law.

- B. Identify the parties to crime in modern times.
- C. Define the criminal act element required for accomplice liability.
- D. Define the criminal intent element required for accomplice liability.
- E. Discuss the consequences of accomplice liability.

Readings

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 4, found in the Lesson section of the classroom to include:

Chapter 7: Parties to Crime

Chapter 8: Inchoate Offenses

Assignment(s)

Respond to the question posed in the Forum.

Week 5: Criminal Homicide & Sex Offenses and Crimes Involving Force, Fear, and Physical Restraint

Learning Objectives

- A. Define the criminal act element required for murder.
- B. Explain why criminal intent is an important element of murder.
- C. Identify, describe, and compare the three types of malice aforethought and the three Model Penal Code murder mental states.
- D. Explain the deadly weapon doctrine.
- E. Give examples of justifiable and excusable homicides.

Readings

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 5, found in the Lesson section of the classroom to include:

Chapter 9: Criminal Homicide

Chapter 10: Sex Offenses and Crimes Involving Force, Fear, and Physical Restraint

Assignment(s)

Respond to the question posed in the Forum.

Week 6: Crimes against Property & Crimes against the Public

Learning Objectives

- A. Define the criminal act element required for extortion.
- B. Define the criminal intent element required for extortion.
- C. Identify a potential defense to extortion.

D. Define the attendant circumstances required for extortion.

E. Define the harm element required for extortion.

Readings

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 6, found in the Lesson section of the classroom to include:

Chapter 11: Crimes against Property

Chapter 12: Crimes against the Public

Assignment(s)

Research Paper Due. Please see the Assignemnt Section of the classroom for instructions on this assignment.

Week 7: Crimes against the Government

Learning Objectives

A. Define the elements of treason, and analyze treason's evidentiary requirements and grading.

B. Define the elements of sedition, and analyze sedition grading.

C. Define the elements of various forms of sabotage, and analyze sabotage grading.

D. Define the elements of espionage, and analyze espionage grading.

E. Ascertain the function of the Department of Homeland Security.

F. Define international and domestic terrorism.

Readings

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 7, found in the Lesson section of the classroom to include:

Chapter 13: Crimes against the Government

Assignment(s)

Respond to the question posed in the Forum

Week 8: Finals Week

Assignment

Your only assignment for this week is to take the final exam. Please note that this is a comprehensive exam so recommend reviewing the material in the lessons for weeks 1 - 7.

Also, please note that this is an essay exam that is untimed and open book/ open resource.

The final exam is due by Sunday at midnight EST.

Best of luck!

Evaluation

The grading will be based on Forums, written assignments and open book final examination.

1. **Forums:** There will be Forums due during the course and will count as 30% of the final grade. The initial posting on Forums is due by **THURSDAY**, midnight EST and should be comprised of at least **500 words** and include citation to relevant sources. You are required to submit **TWO** follow on posts to your classmates' postings by **SUNDAY**, midnight, EST and these should be at least **250 words each**. Students are strongly encouraged to review the Forum Rubric for grading expectations ALL forum postings should list sources used.
2. **Assignments:** Details on these assignments can be found in the Assignments link in the classroom. You will have **3** assignments: Submission of your Supreme Court Essay, Peer Review of the Essay and your Research Paper (detailed below). They are selected to provide the student with hands on experience in applying the law and theories being discussed.
3. **Research Paper:** Each student will prepare and submit a **10-15** page research paper on a topic of criminal law. The student will choose from a variety of topics listed in the assignment section of the classroom. It will count as 25% of the final grade. Students will turn in the paper by the end of Week 6. Footnotes must be used, in Bluebook format or APA format. For the research paper students will be graded using a Rubric. This will help with understanding what constitutes the grade assigned to each paper.
4. **Exam:** The Final examination is an open book essay exams. It counts toward 25% of the final grade. This examination will cover selected sections of the materials found in the lessons section of the classroom. You are expected to respond in-depth to the questions. Your responses to the essays should be a minimum of 500 words for EACH essay. Proper citation is expected and required.

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.

- Typewritten in double-spaced format with a readable style and font and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).
- **Footnotes for citations. This is required by the Bluebook citation format.** However, if you are taking this course and you are not a legal studies major, you may choose to use either Bluebook or APA citation format.

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, 20th ed.*, (2015). However, if you are taking this course and you are not a legal studies major, you may choose to use either Bluebook or APA citation format.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Assignments	20.00 %
Supreme Court Essay (due week 2)	10.00 %
Peer Review Supreme Court Essay (due week 3)	10.00 %
Research Paper	25.00 %
RESEARCH PAPERS DUE (due week 6)	25.00 %

Exams	25.00 %
Final Exam	25.00 %
Forums	29.00 %
Week 1	4.83 %
Week 2	4.83 %
Week 3	4.83 %
Week 4	4.83 %
Week 5	4.83 %
Week 7	4.83 %
Introduction Forum	1.00 %
Introduction	1.00 %

Materials

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

Author: Harvard, Columbia Law Reviews

Publication Info: Harvard, Columbia Law Reviews

ISBN: 9780692400197

Book Title: Various resources from the APUS Library & the Open Web are used. Links provided inside the classroom in the Lessons section.

Author:

Publication Info:

ISBN: N/A

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.

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](http://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., SOC1111), 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](#)

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