

AJ 330 – Criminal Law – Fall 2009 Syllabus

Instructor: Hayden Griffin

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Office: Arthell Kelley Hall 117

Office Hours: M 2:00-4:00, T 1:30-3:30, W 1:30-5:30, H 1:30-3:30 & by appointment

Class Meeting Time: T 11:00-12:15, R 11:00-12:15

Classroom: Bobby Chain Technology Building, Room 202

Course Objectives

This course is a study of substantive issues in criminal law. Consideration is given to the historical development of criminal law the tension between social and legal definitions of crime, the basic dimensions of criminality, the specific elements of individual crimes, and the nature of criminal sanctions.

Course Materials

- 1) Required Textbook: Lippman, Matthew. (2007). *Contemporary Criminal Law: Concepts, Cases, and Controversies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- 2) Recommended Reference Book: *Black's Law Dictionary*.
- 3) Recommended Reference Book: *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.
- 4) Three full-size completely blank (please do not fill out the front cover) bluebooks (examination booklets). These must be turned in one week before the mid-term, although students are encouraged to turn them in earlier. Students that do not turn in bluebooks will receive a 1 point deduction per day from their first test until they turn them in.

Course Management

This course will be taught using a “soft” Socratic Method. I expect all students to participate in discussion and to assist in maintaining our learning environment. All students will be expected to present the facts of the individual cases that they are required to turn in for grading. Additionally, I will usually ask each student a couple of questions about the implications of the case beyond the facts they presented. It is never my intention to either embarrass a student or to “put them on the spot”. However, such an exercise is important to help you critically examine case law and help prepare those for a law school environment where professors will call on students without warning. Although class participation will not be evaluated in any strict sense, it will be considered during the course of the semester.

Course Evaluation

- 1) Six unannounced four question multiple choice quizzes will be administered during the semester. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. The other five quizzes will be worth 2% each of your final grade. Therefore, all five quizzes will comprise 10% of your final grade.

- 2) Each student will be assigned two cases to brief and turn in for grading. In addition to briefing two cases, each student will be expected to present the facts of each case to the class and will be asked a couple of questions about the implication of each case. Each case brief will be worth 5% of your final grade. Therefore, your two case briefs will comprise 10% of your final grade.
- 3) Each student is required to write a 5-7 page (double-spaced, 12 point font) paper on some topic in substantive criminal law (not civil law). The topic must be approved by the Instructor. Please remember that issues such as search and seizure, constitutional rights within criminal proceedings, rights protecting against self-incrimination, prohibitions against cruel and unusual punishment, the guarantee of fair trials, and similar issues are covered in AJ 430 Criminal Procedure. Therefore, any topic covering any of these issues will not be approved. Each student will be expected to provide an initial paper topic and a subsequent preliminary bibliography of at least five “approved” sources. “Approved” sources are either articles in scholarly journals, law reviews or periodicals, cases or summations of legal proceedings, and legal treatises. If you are unsure of a source please consult me. You are required to use at least five sources. Criminal law textbooks **are not** considered acceptable sources and you may not cite the instructor or class lecture as a source. Failure to conform to the basic requirements of this assignment will receive significant deductions. This paper will comprise 15% of your final grade.
- 4) Two tests will comprise 35% of your final grade (Test 1 is worth 15%, Test 2 is worth 20%). Students are allowed to bring to class one sheet of paper that does not exceed 8 inches X 11.5 inches (standard sheet of computer paper or a lined notebook page if preferred). The student may handwrite anything they choose on **one** side of the paper from any sources they choose. Students may collaborate in preparing these study aids but the piece of paper must be in their own handwriting. Any aids that are not handwritten will be confiscated and returned after the exam has concluded. For the second test students are allowed to write on an additional one half page of paper (**one and a half pages total**) in a manner consistent with the terms previously discussed.
- 5) A final comprehensive exam will comprise 30% of your final grade. For the final exam students are allowed to bring in a sheet of paper complying with the conditions set forth for the first two tests. For the final the study aid can be written on **both** sides of the paper. If a student chooses they may reuse one of their test-aids and simply write on the back of it for the final.

Final Grade Scale

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F <60

Attendance

All students are expected to attend every class. Students that miss more than four classes without an excuse from either the Dean of Students or a licensed physician will have their final grade reduced by one letter grade.

Make-up Work

Students that miss a quiz because of an excused absence can make-up the quiz so long as they schedule the make-up quiz within one week. The make-up will generally occur during office hours. If the student has a conflict with class the day a brief, the paper, or one of the examinations is due the student is expected to make arrangements before the assignment is due rather than after.

Late Work

All late case briefs will face a one point deduction per day and late papers will face a two point deduction per day they are late until the value of the assignment reaches zero. Assignments will not be accepted beyond this date.

Submission of Work

Case briefs and papers will not be accepted via e-mail unless the student receives prior approval and some necessity exists for the electronic submission of the work.

Class Conduct

Please turn off or silence all cell phones and pagers before class begins. Those that repeatedly disrespect the learning environment in this manner will be asked to leave.

Students Needing Accommodations

In accordance with University policy, if a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address: The University of Southern Mississippi Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive #8586 Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232; Fax: (601) 266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu

Honor Code

All students are expected to abide by the Honor Code of The University of Southern Mississippi. Although students may study together in groups no collaboration is allowed on your individual papers or case briefs. If you have any questions about either of these assignments please see me and I will be more than happy to help you out. It should be

noted that many violations of the Honor Code are the results of misunderstandings regarding honor policies.

Important Dates

September 1	Last Day to Drop Classes Without Financial Penalty
September 22	Test 1
September 30	Last Day to Drop Classes Without Financial Penalty
October 6	Paper Topics Due
October 20	Tentative Bibliography Due
October 27	Test 2
November 17	Papers Due
December 8	Final Exam (10:45 am- 1:15 pm)

Tentative Schedule

August 20	Introduction
August 25	Chapter 1
August 27	Chapter 2 Constitutional Limitations
September 1	Chapter 3 Punishment and Sentencing
September 3	Chapter 4 Actus Reus
September 8	Chapter 5 Mens Rea
September 10	Chapter 6 Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability
September 15	Review
September 17	Class Cancelled (Southern Criminal Justice Conference)
September 22	Test 1
September 24	Chapter 10 Sexual Assault, Assault, Battery, Kidnapping and False Imprisonment
September 29	Chapter 10 Continued
October 1	Chapter 11 Homicide
October 6	Chapter 11 Continued, Paper Topics Due
October 8	Class Cancelled (Fall Break)
October 13	Chapter 12 Burglary, Trespass, Arson and Mischief
October 15	Chapter 13 Crimes Against Property
October 20	Chapter 7 Attempt, Conspiracy and Solicitation, Paper Sources Due
October 22	Chapter 7 Continued, Review
October 27	Test 2
October 29	Test Review
November 3	Chapter 8 Justifications
November 5	Chapter 9 Excuses
November 10	Chapters 8 & 9 Continued
November 12	No Class (Work on Papers)
November 17	Papers Due
November 19	Chapter 15 Crimes Against Public Order and Morality
November 24	No Class (Thanksgiving)
November 26	No Class (Thanksgiving)
December 1	Chapter 16 Crimes Against the State

December 3

Review