



JUS201 Criminal Law
(3 credit hours)
Course Syllabus

Course Description

An analysis of criminal laws from their development under common law to their present-day applicability under constitutional and statutory standards with special emphasis on practice with the Ohio Revised Code.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify constitutional issues relevant to criminal law and apply existing principles/law in resolving said issues
2. Demonstrate appropriate use of general principles of criminal liability by accurately applying statutory law to known criminal offenses.
3. Distinguish between inchoate crimes
4. Distinguish between justifications and excuses relevant to criminal liability defenses

Prerequisites/Corequisites

JUS110

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Samaha, J. (2017). *Criminal Law* (12th ed.). Wadsworth.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our

accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

Learning Activities

This course will use three types of activities to achieve its learning outcomes. First, every week will include an activity called “Key Points and Questions.” This is an opportunity to engage the instructor and peers as one would after a formal in person lecture, simulated in the distance learning environment.

Second, every week will include some form of written assignment. Some weeks will include a direct request to post responses to a set of questions. In others, you will be asked to draft some form of written product (e.g. a PowerPoint briefing, a mini-position paper) to assess important questions arising from the week’s readings and key points.

Finally, the course will conclude with an essay question test in which you will respond to a series of hypothetical scenarios focused on assessing how well you can assess a set of facts with the tenets of one or more of the week’s lessons.

Throughout the course, the goal of all activities is to assess how well you can analyze criminal legal issues and associated facts with the basic elements of criminal law and policy studied each week. The best work by you will be precise, logical, and brief. This is not a class seeking out long, expansive prose on matters of philosophy. This course is an introduction to legal analysis skills in the context of basic elements of criminal law and policy.

Key Assessment (Taskstream Submission)

This TU course features a “Key Assessment” that provides you the opportunity to demonstrate your program’s core competencies. It also shows how the course fits within the

broader curriculum. For this course, Activity 7.2, End of Term Essay Exam, shall serve as the key assessment.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussion Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (30)	Discussion Activity 2.1 (30)	Discussion Activity 3.1 (30)	Discussion Activity 4.1 (30)	Discussion Activity 5.1 (30)	Discussion Activity 6.1 (30)	Discussion Activity 7.1 (30)	210
Assignments Activity 1.3 (80)	Assignments Activity 2.2 (100)	Assignments Activity 3.2 (120)	Assignments Activity 4.2 (100)	Assignments Activity 5.2 (120)	Assignments Activity 6.2 (110)	Assignments Activity 7.2 (160)	790
110	130	150	130	150	140	190	1000

Grading Scale

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

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Topic	Learning Activities (Due by 11:55 p.m. ET on day designated)
Start Here	<input type="checkbox"/> MON: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers - Initial Post
Week 1: Principle of legality Constitutional limitations No ex post facto laws No bills of attainder Due process	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers - Secondary Post <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 1.2: Key Points & Questions - Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 1.2: Key Points & Questions - Secondary Post <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 1.3: Application of Criminal Law

Reasonable and not arbitrary and capricious Void for vagueness	
Week 2: Actus Reus Voluntary Inchoate Omission Possession	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 2.1: Key Points & Questions - Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 2.1: Key Points & Questions - Secondary Post <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 2.2: Voluntary Actions
Week 3: Result Cause in Fact Proximate Cause	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 3.1: Key Points & Questions - Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 3.1: Key Points & Questions - Secondary Post <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 3.2: Forms of Cause Presentation
Week 4: Mens Rea Intent Willful Malice Specific General Requirement for a mental state Purpose Knowing Reckless Negligent	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 4.1: Key Points & Questions - Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 4.1: Key Points & Questions - Secondary Post <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 4.2: Mental States and Media Coverage
Week 5:	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 5.1: Key Points & Questions - Initial Post

<p>Homicide Manslaughter Assault Battery Rape False Imprisonment Kidnapping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 5.1: Key Points & Questions - Secondary Post <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 5.2: Case Study
<p>Week 6: Larceny Burglary Robbery Embezzlement Arson Forgery Receiving Stolen Property Extortion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 6.1: Key Points & Questions - Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 6.1: Key Points & Questions - Secondary Post <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 6.2: Mini Position Paper
<p>Week 7: Justification Excuse Specific Defenses Self Defense Defense of Others Defense of Habitation Necessity Duress Insanity Entrapment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 7.1: Key Points & Questions - Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> THUR: Activity 7.2: End of Term Essay Exam <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 7.1: Key Points & Questions - Secondary Post

Tips for Success

Successful online learning requires a good deal of self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge and review one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery and constructiveness. Your course is a place for you to stretch and grow as you benefit from the expertise, knowledge, experience and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge, understanding and application.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.