

Criminal Law (LAW 5303, §C)
Professor Hamilton

Office: BLB222

mhamilt4@central.uh.edu

Office Hours: Tue/Thur 2:30-3:30 pm

Meetings can be arranged by appointment. Drop-in visits are also welcome.

Expected Daily Schedule (all rights reserved for changes):

Date	Topic	Casebook Pages*	MPC Sections
Jan. 15	Introduction	1-18	1.02(1); 1.12(1)
Jan. 17	Principle of Legality	92-105; 247-254	1.05; 210.0(1)
Jan. 22	Void for Vagueness; Lenity	105-110; 119-126	1.02(3)
Jan. 24	<i>Actus Reus</i>	127-41; 147-48	2.01; 2.05(1)
Jan. 29	<i>Mens Rea</i> I	149-64	2.02(1)-(3), (5)
Jan. 31	<i>Mens Rea</i> II	164-174	2.02(2)-(8)
Feb. 5	Strict Liability	174-183; 185-192	2.05(1)
Feb. 7	Mistake	193-211	2.02(9); 2.04
Feb. 12	Causation	213-234	2.03
Feb. 14	Murder	236-238; 254-265	210.0-.4
Feb. 19	Unintentional Homicide I	265-275; 284-290	210.3
Feb. 21	Unintentional Homicide II	294-310	210.2-.4
Feb. 26	Felony Murder	318-335	210.2
Feb. 28	Self-Defense	478; 481-497	3.01; 3.04; 3.09; 3.11
March 5	Defense of Others, Property	506-509; 530-540	3.05; 3.06; 3.09; 3.11
March 7	Necessity	541-558; 49-50	3.02
March 19	Duress	564-572; 578-584	2.09
March 21	Intoxication; Infancy	584-592; 652-658	2.08
March 26	Attempt I	708-712; 716-728	5.01(1)-(2); 5.05(1)
March 28	Attempt II	729-744	5.01(2)
April 2	Attempt III	745-763	5.01(4)
April 4	Solicitation; Conspiracy I	772-788	1.07(1); 2.06; 5.02
April 9	Conspiracy II	789-803	5.03(1)-(3), (5)
April 11	Conspiracy III	804-818	5.03(1)-(3)
April 16	Conspiracy IV	818-826	5.03(6),(7); 5.04; 2.06(5), (6)
April 18	Accomplice I	838-853	2.06
April 23	Accomplice II	853-863; 868-873	2.06(6)
April 25	Make-up or Review		

* The "Notes and Questions" are required, and usually quite helpful, reading.

Course Objectives: Permit students to become familiar with the general elements of a crime, common defenses to criminal liability, inchoate crimes, and of the specific offenses relating to homicide. In addition, students will practice focusing on and developing relevant facts, develop their statutory interpretation skills, consider the modern uses of common law, and hone argumentation strategies.

Required Casebook: Dressler, *Cases and Materials on Criminal Law* (6th edition, 2012).

Suggested Supplemental Material: LaFave, *Principles of Criminal Law* or Dressler, *Understanding Criminal Law* (any edition should suffice).

Class Preparation: Reading the assigned materials before the relevant class is required. In addition, class participation is a necessary part of learning how to be a lawyer and to make winning arguments. Students will be called on randomly. If asked for the facts of a case, your job is to give a synthesis of the most relevant facts cued to the issues presented and resolved in the case. In other words, this should not be a mere reading of the facts from the opinion.

Lawyers use words wisely and judges particularly employ certain terms to convey a specific meaning. Thus, if there is any word or term used in the casebook with which you are not familiar, be sure to look it up and understand its purpose in the context of the case. It is good practice to do so.

At the end of each class, I will list the objectives and particular issues to consider in the following reading. These should assist you in determining the main ideas to try to ascertain from the reading, as well as provide a basis for the questions that will be posed in the next class. At times, this may include a mini homework assignment to prepare for the next class.

Attendance is required per the law school's policy.

TWEN is the course website for class announcements and other materials.

The final exam is a three hour exam during its scheduled time. The exam is closed book except that you may have one sheet of paper (8½ x 11 American inch) with whatever notes or outline you might wish to include on the front and back. A copy of the Model Penal Code will be provided. The exam will consist of essay, short answer, and multiple choice questions. Any student's final grade can be reduced or upgraded by one-half letter grade based on class preparation and participation.

Academic Dishonesty: The University enforces certain standards of conduct and enforces them.

For the benefit of everyone, please **no abusive computer usage**.