

**CRIMINAL LAW - FALL 2014**

**LAW COURSE NO. 5100**

**CLASS NO. 3647**

**FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW**

Monday & Wednesday 10:00am to 11:15 am pm Classroom TBA

Professor Omar Saleem

omar.saleem@famu.edu - office: 3<sup>rd</sup> floor room 337 - Phone: 407 254 - 3234

The Course Criminal Law explores the factors necessary to hold a person criminally liable for his or her actions or inactions. Students learn the elements of common law and statutory crimes, which include crimes against persons, property and habitation. We will examine common defenses and excuses, key sections of the Model Penal Code (MPC), Florida Law, along with the theoretical, philosophical and policy considerations underlying the crimes and the criminal justice system.

**COURSE PREREQUISITE:**

None

**TWEN**

There is a WESTLAW TWEN page for this course. TWEN is used to send class-related announcements and to distribute additional materials. You are required to sign up on TWEN for this course.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Cases and Materials on Criminal Law (sixth edition) Joshua Dressler and Stephen P. Garvey  
Additional handouts will be assigned.

Students are responsible for all issues raised in the assigned readings, whether or not they are discussed in class. Students will also be responsible for all issues raised in class, whether or not they are covered in the assigned readings.

Note: Reading assignments are subject to change

**OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:30pm to 3:00pm. If you would like to meet at another time, please email me to schedule an appointment. In addition, you may use email to communicate with me, and I will do my best to promptly respond. Please note that I do not

answer substantive questions by email because it is more helpful to discuss such questions in person. If your question is of general interest it will be shared with the class.

### **CLASS RULES AND INFORMATION**

- Regular and punctual class attendance is required. Late arrival is not allowed. The attendance Policy is governed by the rules in the Student Handbook. Please be aware that I do not have the discretion to excuse absences.
- A student's final grade will be based primarily on the quality of a final examination. In class "surprise" assignments or examinations are possible. I reserve the right to increase grades based on consistent and high quality class participation, and to lower grades, or assign a failing grade, based on lack of preparation or effort in class or a lack of professional conduct or discourteous conduct.
- Etiquette: Students must refrain from activities that could distract themselves or others from discussions. Such activities include, among others, email and other instant message communication (including texting), Internet browsing, side conversations or comments, game playing, and eating. In order to facilitate compliance, Students are required to turn off and put away all electronic devices before class begins. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to laptop computers, cell phones, PDAs and pagers. No taping of the class is permitted.

\* Failure to complete or submit entire exam will result in a failing grade in the course.

#### Assignments

1-28	Nature of the Criminal Law
29-69	Principles of Punishment
69-91	Proportionality of Punishment
92-126	Modern Role of Criminal Statutes
127-148	Actus Reus
149-174	Mens Rea
174-212	Strict Liability; Mistakes of Fact and Law
213-234	Causation
235-284	Criminal Homicide

284-307	Intentional Killings (continued); Unintentional Killings
308-338	Unintentional Killings (continued)
389 – 460-	Rape
461-467; 481-512	Self-defense and
512-521; 530-541	Battered Woman Syndrome; Defense of Others/Property/Habitation
541- 584	Necessity, civil disobedience, duress,
584- 630	Intoxication, Insanity
659 – 665,677-692,698-702	“New” Defenses
715- 762	Inchoate Crimes: Attempt
772-828	Solicitation, Conspiracy,
893-927	Theft (Larceny, Embezzlement, False Pretense)

Additional readings to be announced