

**CRIMINAL LAW
CRJU 4213-X30**

Online Course

Summer I, 2023

Dr. Laura W. Fidelie

Contact Information

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to examine the development and current state of criminal law in the United States. Material covered will include the distinction between criminal and civil law, punishment of law violators, elements of criminal liability, defenses to crimes, and uncompleted crimes. Emphasis will be placed on what constitutes criminal homicide, crimes against people and property, and inchoate crimes. Various crimes and their defenses will be taught through use of the Model Penal Code, state and federal statutes, and case law.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, you should have a thorough understanding of what behavior constitutes a violation of the criminal laws of the United States. You should be able to:

- 1) Understand the broad implications of crime, criminal law, and punishment, and the various ways that they relate to certain populations, as well as society at large
- 2) Examine a fact scenario and apply the elements of criminal statutes and case law in order to determine what crime(s) have been committed
- 3) Raise and explore appropriate defense(s) to crime(s) based upon a given fact scenario
- 4) Apply appropriate legal standards to fact scenarios based upon state and federal statutes, the Model Penal Code, and case law
- 5) Present logical, coherent, and well-rounded arguments based upon fact scenarios, both orally and in writing

- 6) Develop rational solutions to criminal law-based fact scenarios, both individually and in teams
- 7) Understand the effects of globalization upon the increasingly international dimensions of criminal law

Required Text

Mays, L., Ball, J, & Fidelie, L. (2014). Criminal Law: Core Concepts. Wolters Kluwer Law & Business.

Course Requirements

1) Discussion Questions

The discussion questions you respond to each week are a critical and integral portion of the course. This is where I can make the determination, or non-determination, that you are (1) reading, (2) comprehending, (3) applying, and (4) correlating the knowledge you learn to other aspects of the course and your degree program in general.

For each discussion question asked, I am looking for a detailed and well thought-out answer that integrates the assigned reading, your knowledge, and your own thoughts and perspective on the question posed. Your answers to discussion questions must utilize correct grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. When referencing outside material, proper APA citations must be given. If you have any questions on what constitutes a quality answer to a discussion question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your answers must be posted as text within the D2L text box. Do not post your answers as a document attachment. Each question must be answered separately within the thread started for each question. Do not answer all the questions in one posting. Answers that are posted as document attachments or answered all in one posting **WILL NOT BE GRADED.**

Your own answers to the discussion questions will constitute 75% of your grade for each discussion assignment.

2) Discussion Board Participation

Every week throughout the semester, discussions will be held via D2L. Discussions are a vital part of the class, as they occur in lieu of live class discussions that would normally take place in a traditional class setting. Thoughtful participation in each of these discussions is mandatory and will be

calculated as a part of your participation grade. Discussions will take place by each student:

- 1) answering each discussion question given for that week AND
- 2) responding to the answer that another student has given to one of that week's discussion questions.

In addition to responding to that week's assigned discussion questions with your own answers, each student must respond to the answer of any fellow student **at least one time per week**. When responding to the answer of a fellow student, you must comment upon his or her answer to the discussion question, state whether you agree or disagree with the answer and reasoning given, and give support for your response. You must include at least one (1) response that contains a **minimum of 200 words**. **Numerous responses of lesser word counts will NOT be added together to meet the word requirement.** Responses must utilize proper grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. When referencing outside material, proper APA citations must be used. Your response to a classmate will count for 25% of your grade for each discussion assignment.

When responding to the answers and thoughts of another student, it is perfectly acceptable to agree or disagree with their answer. However, all responses must be constructive, must not be derogatory in any way, must not use inappropriate language, and must show respect for the thoughts and opinions of your fellow students. If you would not make the comment in the classroom, do not make it on D2L. **Violating these rules of etiquette will result in a loss of all points associated with that response.** If there are any questions about what constitutes an appropriate response, please contact the professor.

3) Examinations

Two multiple choice exams will be given during the semester. The purpose of these exams is to assess your knowledge and application of the information presented throughout the readings, class discussions, and assignments. Because of the nature of an online course, these exams are inevitably open book. As such, I am looking for exam answers that show me that you have taken the materials presented in the course, comprehended them, and applied them to real-life scenarios and to your own thought processes, rather than merely reciting facts from a textbook.

Exams are to be completed individually by each student. Collaboration with other students is not allowed on exams. Collaboration will be considered an act of academic dishonesty.

Grading Policy

Assignments	Percentage
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Discussions	50%
Total	100%

ALL assignments must be completed. Failure to complete any of these assignments will result in a grade of F for the course

All assignments will be graded on a 100-point scale. Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted.

Your final grade will be determined on the following scale:

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

Please do not inquire as to what scores you would need to receive on assignments throughout the course in order to achieve a certain final grade. The weight of each assignment is listed above so that you may perform your own calculations of any potential grades. The professor will not perform these calculations for you.

Final grades will not be released by the professor until they are posted by the Registrar's Office.

Contacting Me

I am available to answer any questions you may have about the course. When a question arises, you may contact me through the email feature on the D2L site or at laura.fidelie@msutexas.edu.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH ME MUST COME FROM YOUR OFFICIAL MSU EMAIL ADDRESS OR THROUGH D2L EMAIL. ANY EMAILS FROM EXTERNAL EMAIL ADDRESSES WILL NOT BE READ OR RESPONDED TO.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is something that I take very seriously. As future professionals, it is something that you should take seriously as well. Establishing ethical work habits and maintaining both your own integrity and that of your profession begins during your education and training.

Each student is expected to abide by the rules of ethical and academic honesty as defined by the student handbook. All cases of academic dishonesty will result in a **failing grade for the course** and a letter to the Dean of Students requesting that you be **withdrawn from the University**. If there are any questions as to whether an action is academically dishonest, please consult with the professor.

Extenuating Circumstances

In the event of an extenuating circumstance such as illness, death in the family, etc, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. Assignments and deadlines may be modified on a case-by-case basis. Verifiable documentation of the circumstance may be required. The more quickly you let me know what is going on, the more options I will have for allowing you to complete the course.

I look forward to working with each of you this semester!

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 (due by 11:59 PM CST, Sunday, June 11):

Read Mays, Ball & Fidelie, Chapters 1, 2 & 3

D2L Discussion Questions and Response

Submit Biographical Information and Syllabus Agreement

(for the syllabus agreement, simply send me an email stating that you have read the course syllabus and agree to abide by its terms)

Week 2 (due by 11:59 PM CST, Sunday, June 18):

Read Ball, Mays & Fidelie, Chapters 4, 7 & 8

D2L Discussion Questions and Response

Midterm Exam (exam will be available from 6:00 AM Friday, June 16 until 11:59 PM Sunday, June 18)

Week 3 (due by 11:59 PM CST, Sunday, June 25):

Read Ball, Mays & Fidelie Chapters 5 & 6

D2L Discussion Questions and Response

Week 4 (due by 11:59 PM CST, Sunday, July 2):

Read Ball, Mays & Fidelie, Chapters 9, 10 & 11

D2L Discussion Questions and Response

Final Exam (Exam will be available from 6:00 AM Friday, June 30 until 11:59 PM Sunday, July 2)