



Course Syllabus

Course Code LAW-241	Course Title Criminal Law I	ECTS Credits 6
Prerequisites None	Department Law	Semester Fall
Type of Course Required	Field Law	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Lecturer Peter Pafitis	Year of Study 2 nd
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Corequisites None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

Acquaint students with the principles and criteria upon which a person's responsibility under criminal law will be assessed, focusing primarily on the relevant principles fundamental to criminal liability and the current state of the law in the specific areas of study, as laid down hereunder. Within this context, the key aim of the course is to develop a sound understanding of legal method with particular emphasis on the ability to adopt an effective analytical approach with a view to identifying specific criminal conduct/issues, and applying the general principles of Criminal Law to given hypothetical situations and scenarios with reference to relevant case authority, applicable legislation and/or the opinions of recognized legal commentators and academics.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Discuss the nature and importance of the mens rea mental element and actus reus requirement as key components of criminal offences
2. Explain the need for coincidence of the above elements and the courts' flexible approach in applying this principle
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of judicial guidelines for the identification of strict liability offences
4. Determine the law concerning participants in crime and the imposition of secondary/accessorial liability
5. Assess the factors and principles which govern the defences of insanity, automatism and

diminished responsibility

6. Discuss the relevant legal principles applicable to the defence of intoxication

7. Assess the circumstances in which the principles of duress, necessity and public/private defence may be raised

8. Explain the need for acquiring problem-solving skills with a view to applying legal principles to factual situations and scenarios

Course Content:

(a) Introduction to Criminal Law

(b) The Elements of a Crime: (I) Actus Reus

Nature

Causation

Omissions

(II) Mens Rea

Intention

Recklessness

Transferred Malice

Coincidence of Actus Reus and Mens Rea

(c) Crimes and Strict Liability

(d) Participation in Crime: Aiding, Abetting, Counselling & Procuring

(Accessorial liability)

(e) General Defences: Insanity / Automatism

Diminished Responsibility

Intoxication

Self-Defence

Duress

Necessity

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive lectures, tutorials, case studies, group discussions
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Assessment Methods:

Assignment and/or presentation, mid-term examination, final examination

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Criminal Law	Catherine Elliot & Frances Quinn	Pearson's Education	2016	978129208839
Smith and Hogan's Criminal Law	David Ormerod & Karl Laird	Oxford University Press	2015	9780198702313

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Clarkson & Keating Criminal Law: Text & Materials	Professor Sally Kyd, Dr Tracy Elliott, Dr Mark Austin Walters	Sweet & Maxwell	2017	9780414061521
Criminal Law	Allan Reed, Ben Fitzpatrick & Peter Seago	Sweet & Maxwell	2009	9781847037404
Smith, Hogan & Ormerod's Text, Cases & Materials on Criminal Law	David Ormerod & Karl Laird	Oxford University Press	2017	9780198788713
Criminal Law	Michael Allen	Oxford University Press	2017	978019878876