



Course Syllabus

Course Code MLAW-532DE	Course Title Criminal Law and Social Justice	ECTS Credits 10
Prerequisites None	Department Law	Semester Fall/Spring
Type of Course Elective	Field Human Rights and Social Justice	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 2 nd Cycle	Lecturer(s) Prof. Nestor Courakis	Year of Study 1 st
Mode of Delivery Distance Learning	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Course Objectives:

The purpose and objectives of the course are:

1. The understanding and appreciation of the aims of criminal law, from the standpoint of social justice,
2. Realization of the intersections between criminal law and social justice and of the need for a social justice-centered orientation of the penal institution,
3. Examination of several penal law fields and aspects that relate to social inequality and social justice issues (e.g. sentencing, tolerance towards white collar crimes etc.)

Learning Outcomes:

After the completion of the course students are expected to:

- Know in depth the aims of punishment and the meaning of criminal suppression
- Reflect upon the possibilities by which penal law application might contribute to social justice, in terms of general, as well as specific, prevention
- Evaluate judicial decisions from the standpoint of social justice as a basic parameter of criminal law
- Argue critically upon means and methods able to confront social inequalities/injustices that impel vulnerable social groups towards delinquency

Course Contents:

1. Meaning, aims and functions of punishment – Criminal law system
2. Meaning of social justice – Current condition of wealth distribution and inequalities
3. Theoretical foundations of social justice – The Classics: Plato, Aristotle, Natural Law, Equity
4. Contemporary approaches on social justice – The work of John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Amartya Sen et al.
5. The meaning of social solidarity – A bridge-notion between criminal law and social justice
6. The content of equality, under the Constitution – Welfare state values
7. Comparative approach on sentencing: English and Greek legal systems
8. Criminal justice inequalities – The case of economic crimes
9. Fiscal systems, inequalities and tax-evasion
10. Inequalities, corruption and clientélisme
11. Discriminations against vulnerable social groups – D. Sorvatzioti’s social survey on the “Poverty of Justice”
12. Social inequalities and current economic and cultural crisis – The decline of welfare state and the rupture of social bonds
13. Perspectives and solutions, at the national and global level

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Personal guidance, Case-study analysis, Video-streamed courses, Forum, Final exam

Assessment Methods:

Interim individual studies, Formative assessment activities, Final exam

Textbooks – Bibliography:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
<i>Theory of Punishment. An Introduction [in Greek]</i>	N. Kourakis	Sakkoulas	2008	
<i>Social Justice [in Greek]</i>	Th. Lianos	Kastaniotis	2000	
<i>Social Justice, 3rd ed. [in Greek]</i>	N. Kourakis	Ant. N. Sakkoulas	2023	
<i>Justice. What's the right thing to do?</i>	M. Sandel	Farrar, Straus and Giroux	2009	
<i>The Poverty of Justice [in Greek]</i>	D. Sorvatzioti	KaPsiMi	2009	
<i>A Theory of Justice – 2nd Ed.</i>	J. Rawls	Harvard University Press	1999	
<i>The Political Potentiality of Justice [in Greek]</i>	K. Papageorgiou	Nisos	1994	
<i>The rich get richer and the poor get prison, 10th ed.</i>	Jeffrey Reiman - Paul Leighton	Routledge	2012	
<i>Social Justice: Criminal Justice</i>	Ben Shimshon (ed.)	London: The Smith Institute	2006	
<i>Social justice</i>	Matthew G. Clayton (ed.)	Malden, MA: Blackwell	2004	
<i>Routledge International Handbook of Social Justice</i>	Michael Reisch (ed.)	Routledge	2014	

<i>Social justice, criminal justice: the role of American law in effecting and preventing social change</i>	Cyndy Caravelis and Matthew Robinson	Routledge	2016	
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