Prof. K. Russell-Brown Spring 2020

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**CRIMINAL LAW** (Section 2A)

LAW 5100

3 credits

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course is an introduction to substantive criminal law, how society regulates, prevents and punishes socially undesirable behavior. It covers the elements of basic criminal offenses, including homicide and sexual assault and inchoate offenses (conspiracy, attempt). We will also examine related factors regarding criminal offending, such as culpability and mental state. The course addresses the principles of justification and excuse. The course will also address the role of institutional actors, including police and prosecutors and the role of discretion.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

* Kadish, Schulhofer, & Barkow (2017, 10th ed.) *Criminal Law and Its Processes: Cases and* *Materials*

\*Some additional course material may be assigned

**CLASS ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Please plan to arrive to class on time and remain in class for the entire time period. If you need to leave class before the end time, or arrive after the start time, please notify me in advance. The ABA requires “regular and punctual” attendance. Class attendance is an essential function of legal education and a primary obligation of each student. Students are allowed two unexcused absences. Any additional absences must be excused by the professor. Students with four or five absences will be referred to Student Affairs and their absences may result in a grade reduction. Students with six or more absences will be referred to Student Affairs and may be dropped from the class.

The expectation is that students will attend each class, read all assigned materials prior to class discussion, participate regularly in class discussions, and be prepared discuss the assigned material.

**COMPUTERS & CELL PHONES**

The use of computers and other electronic devices used for notetaking, communication and/or access to the internet is not permitted. Please silence your cell phones.

**COURSE GRADE & FINAL EXAMINATION**

Your final course grade will be based primarily on an in-class final examination.

The final examination for this course is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 8:30AM.**

**COURSE WORKLOAD**

Students should expect to spend, on average, two hours of preparation for every hour of class.

**GRADING SCALE**

Grading for this course will adhere to the Levin College of Law’s mean and mandatory distributions, detailed in the below chart. For further information of UF Law grading policies, visit <http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#9>.

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| --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Point Equivalent** |
| A (Excellent) | 4.0 |
| A- | 3.67 |
| B+ | 3.33 |
| B | 3.0 |
| B- | 2.67 |
| C+ | 2.33 |
| C (Satisfactory) | 2.0 |
| C- | 1.67 |
| D+ | 1.33 |
| D (Poor) | 1.0 |
| D- | 0.67 |
| F (Failure) | 0.0 |

The law school policy on Make-up exams or other work can be found at:

<https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/forms-applications/exam-delays-accommodations-form>

**ACCOMODATIONS**

Requests for classroom accommodations must be made with the Office of Disability Resources. The UF Office of Disability will provide documentation to the student who must then provide documentation to the Law School’s Office of Student Affairs.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community.

Please review the UF Student Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After completing this course, students should:

1. Know basic principles and overview of U.S. criminal law
2. Describe justifications for punishment
3. Understand legal and social distinctions between crime and tort
4. Identify elements of numerous criminal offenses
5. Identify use of Model Penal Code
6. Differentiate within categories of crimes (homicide, inchoate, sexual assault)
7. Strengthen ability to read, digest and critique court cases
8. Identify relevant legal and policy considerations for particular justice system practices