DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE
This course discusses and examines the history and development of common law crimes and criminal responsibility. The course requires the knowledge of particular concepts and the ability to identify them in complex fact patterns and discuss their implications. It also requires the application of legal principles to fact situations in a logical way. Therefore, relevant legal examples will be offered to illustrate how criminal proceedings could occur from arrest to appeal. Students will not only examine the elements of crimes but also review possible defenses to criminal liability. Class discussions will focus on our social and cultural world as a necessary part of the criminal system and the indispensable role played by our historical, ethical, and personal perspectives in the acceptance of the decision to make conduct criminal and assign punishment.

OBJECTIVES
Students should be familiar with the elements of crimes against persons, property, and order as defined by the Model Penal Code and other relevant statutes. Students should also be able to analyze and discuss the implications of legal concepts and procedures and be acquainted with various key legal clauses, concepts, cases and terms relating to Criminal Law.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND BRIEFING
Students are required to read the assignments for each class each week. Students will be randomly selected in class to discuss the assigned reading. If a student is unprepared or has opted to miss class on the particular day that they are selected to lead the discussion, the student will lose percentage points from their overall grade average.

In addition, students should brief the major cases for each week’s assigned reading. To maintain a manageable workload, I will assign the briefing responsibilities to several students per week who will distribute their briefs to the rest of the class. The midterm and final exam will draw heavily on these briefs.

ISSUE Debates
The class will be divided into several teams and students will be assigned a topic on a current controversial issue involving criminal law.
ATTENDANCE
Class attendance is mandatory. A pattern of unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the final course grade up to a full letter grade.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES
Cell phones and personal electronic devices must be silenced during class.

EXAMINATIONS
There will be a midterm and final exam.

GRADING SYSTEM
Midterm Exam 100 points
Debate 100 points
Final Exam 100 points
Class Participation 50 points

SCALE
100 – 93 = A
92 – 90 = A-
87 – 89 = B+
83 – 86 = B
80 – 82 = B-
77 – 79 = C+
73 – 76 = C
70 – 72 = C-
67 – 69 = D+
63 – 66 = D
60 – 62 = D
< 60 = F

OFFICE HOURS
My office hours are by appointment. You are strongly encouraged to meet with me if you need help. Do not wait until the last minute to seek help. Students may also email me at v.fan@neu.edu with any questions or concerns.

ACADEMIC DISHonesty
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If you are caught engaging in such behavior, you will receive a zero for the exam or assignment in question and may be subject to university disciplinary action.
Week 1
Sept 8 – Introduction

Week 2
Sept 12 – Elements of the Criminal Offense, Actus Reus (103-123, 131-149)
Sept 14 – Elements of the Criminal Offense, Mens Rea (175-213)

Week 3
Sept 19 – Elements of the Criminal Offense, Mens Rea, cont’d (213-247)
Sept 21 – Causation (259-302)

Week 4
Sept 26 – First and Second Degree Homicide, Manslaughter (325-369)
Sept 28 – Manslaughter (369-413)

Week 5
Oct 3 - Felony Murder (413-451)
Oct 5 – Attempt (659-689)

Week 6
Oct 10 – No Class, Columbus Day Observed
Oct 12 – Midterm Review

Week 7
Oct 17 – Midterm Exam
Oct 19 – Midterm Exam Results and Discussion
Week 8

Oct 24 – Debate – Euthanasia
Oct 26 – Debate – Death Penalty

Week 9

Oct 31 – Debate – Anti-Bullying Legislation
Nov 2 – Debate – Westboro Baptist as Protected Speech

Week 10

Nov 7 – Complicity (715-757)
Nov 9 – Conspiracy (791-833)

Week 11

Nov 14 – Rape and Sexual Offenses (863-903, 934-938)
Nov 16 – No Class, ASC Conference

Week 12

Nov 21 – Theft and Property Offenses (939-958, 983-994)
Nov 23 – No Class, Thanksgiving Break

Week 13

Nov 28 – Defenses, Necessity and Duress (563-599)
Dec 30 – Defenses, Self-Defense and Battered Woman Syndrome (515-562)

Week 14

Dec 5 – Review for Final Exam
Dec 7 – Final Exam