CRIM 3100 CRIMINAL LAW
SPRING 2010
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY, 2:50-4:30 PM
PROFESSOR V-TSIEN FAN
502A HAYDEN HALL
v.fan@neu.edu

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
Jan 11 – Introduction

Jan 13 - Elements of the Criminal Offense, Actus Reus (103-123, 131-149)

Week 2
Jan 18 – No Class, MLK Day Observed

Jan 20 – Elements of the Criminal Offense, Mens Rea (175-213)

Week 3
Jan 25 – Elements of the Criminal Offense, Mens Rea, cont’d (213-247)

Jan 27 – Causation (259-302)

Week 4
Feb 1 – First and Second Degree Homicide, Manslaughter (325-369)

Feb 3 – Manslaughter (369-413)

Week 5
Feb 8 – Felony Murder (413-451)

Feb 10 - Attempt (659-689)

Week 6
Feb 15 – No Class, President’s Day Observed

Feb 17 – Debate - Hate Crimes Legislation

Week 7
Feb 22 - Debate – Mandatory Sentencing

Feb 24 – Debate – Euthanasia

March 1-5 Spring Break
Week 8
March 8 – Debate – Drug Legalization
March 10 – Debate – Death Penalty

Week 9
March 15 – Review for Midterm
March 17 – Midterm Exam

Week 10
March 22 – Complicity (715-757)
March 24 – Conspiracy (791-833)

Week 11
March 29 – TBD
March 31 – Rape and Sexual Offenses (863-903, 934-938)

Week 12
April 5 – Theft and Property Offenses (939-958, 983-994)
April 7 – Defenses, Necessity and Duress (563-599)

Week 13
April 12 – Defenses, Self-Defense and Battered Woman Syndrome (515-562)
April 14 – Defenses, Insanity (605-642)

Week 14
April 19 – No Class, Patriot’s Day Observed

April 21 – Review for Final Exam