CRIMINAL LAW
Spring 2017

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW PROFESSOR JOHN C. DEHN

SYLLABUS
(Subject to Change)

Class Times: Mo: 10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M., Wed: 10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M. Classroom: 1303

Contact Information: Office: Corboy 1328 Phone: (312) 915-7862 E-mail: jdehn@luc.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays: 1:00-4:00 P.M. (or at another time to be arranged by email).

Attendance: Any student regularly missing class may be reported to the Dean of Students and/or Registrar and is subject to being dropped from the course. E-mail me to explain every absence.

Announcements: My class announcements will be made through LOCUS. Tutors will utilize TWEN. You are expected to sign up for the TWEN page for the course.

Recording: No voice or video recording of class sessions is permitted unless approved in advance.

Text: Dressler & Garvey, Cases and Materials on Criminal Law (West, 7th edition)

Course Scope/Focus: This course examines what conduct society says is deserving of condemnation and punishment. It includes detailed study of prohibited acts, such as: murder, other homicides, assault, rape/sexual assault, and if there is time, theft. It also examines why we punish, defenses to crimes, inchoate crimes (acts punishable though the crime ultimately intended may not have been completed), as well as crimes committed by more than one person and how culpability is assessed. The main practical skill you will develop is interpreting and applying criminal statutes.

Course Goals:

i. Develop and demonstrate comprehension of all criminal law legal doctrines and general principles examined in the course
ii. Develop and demonstrate the ability to interpret and apply statutes and related case law to analyze facts and make legal arguments
iii. Analyze appellate opinions to extract relevant principles and rules and develop legal arguments by drawing analogies and distinctions
iv. Communicate appropriate legal and factual arguments and analysis orally and in writing

Grades/Evaluation: Your grade will be determined by a final exam (95%) as well as your class preparation (5%), the latter of which will be measured by your responses when directly called upon to recite a case or answer questions. The final exam date and time will be provided when available. The final exam will be three hours long. The final exam will be open book/open note, meaning you may reference any physically printed materials you wish to bring to the exam. No electronic devices of any kind, including but not limited to tablet computing devices, “smart phones,” or e-readers, may be used as a reference during the final exam. Consult the Registrar with any questions regarding law school exam-taking policies for open book/open note exams.

Criminal Law
Professor Dehn
Spring 2017
ASSIGNMENT

Date      Pages  General Focus
Jan. 18   1-14, 19-29, Handout  Course and Criminal Law Introduction

FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- What is criminal law? In what ways is it unique?
- What is proof beyond a reasonable doubt? Why is it required in criminal cases?
- What roles do various parts of government and society play in the criminal justice system? How do they differ from the jolly old England and the early days of the United States?
- What is “jury nullification?” Is it an essential aspect of jury trials or just an occasional unavoidable result?
- What are “common law” crimes and how do they relate to crimes defined by statute?
- Do you have any other questions about the course or the information on the previous page?