

POLS 4730 Criminal Law Spring 2022

Tuesday/Thursday 11:10am-12:25pm, Baldwin Hall 301

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00pm

Course Description: This class is an introduction to criminal law. Legal statutes vary from state to state so this class will consist of an overview of criminal law. It is important to remember that law is codified by legislatures and then ruled upon in the court system. Because of the common law tradition in our country, we will be reading cases as examples of the implementation of criminal law.

Course Objectives: The objective of the class is to introduce students to concepts in criminal law. Law is dynamic and criminal law changes both with new statutes passed by legislatures and rulings from the court system. At the end of this semester students will be familiar with concepts of criminal law such as vagueness, general intent, specific intent, *actus reus*, *mens rea*, causation, concurrence, excuses, justification and others. Additionally, students will become familiar with the legal foundation for types of crimes such as homicide, sexual offenses, and others.

Required Books:

Contemporary Criminal Law: Concepts, Cases, and Controversies, FIFTH EDITION (SAGE publishing), Matthew Lippman, 2018 (ISBN: 9781544308135)

Punishment Without Crime, Alexandra Natapoff, 2018, ISBN-10: 0465093795

GRADING		GRADING SCALE			
EXAM 1	30%	100-94	A	79-76	C+
BOOK ASSIGNMENT	15%	93-90	A-	75-73	C
EXAM 2	30%	89-86	B+	72-70	C-
PRESENTATION	15%	85-83	B	69-60	D
ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION	10%	82-80	B-	Below 60	F

Exams: The two exams will combine multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions and will test material from your readings, lectures, and discussions. All exams will be administered online on eLC during our class time and can be taken at the location of your choice (including our classroom). The exams will be open note/open book but **collaboration among students is prohibited**. Unless otherwise noted, exams will NOT be cumulative. *Exam make-ups will not be offered unless previously scheduled due to extenuating circumstances, or in the event of a verifiable emergency.*

Book Assignment: Students will find a state/jurisdiction that's made a recent (in the last 5 years) change to their misdemeanor system, explain the changes made, discuss any data that exists comparing the misdemeanor system before and after the reforms and critically analyze these changes. The final product should be a 4-6 page paper summarizing their findings. More details later in the semester

Presentation: Students will form groups of 5 and create a short (5 minute) multimedia presentation (PowerPoint, video, podcast interview, etc) comparing a crime's statutory language and jury instruction. More details later in the semester.

Attendance and Participation: Read the assignments and come to class ready to discuss them! If you don't participate, it WILL impact your grade. I'll take attendance at the beginning of each class in order to learn your names and ensure timely arrivals. You are permitted 4 absences, no questions asked, no need to let me know (quarantine related absences count as well). **Use them wisely.** Being "present" means being both physically and mentally present, excusing yourself from the latest TikTok video, Twitter war or Snap from your bestie.

POLS 4730 Criminal Law

Spring 2022

Tuesday/Thursday 11:10am-12:25pm, Baldwin Hall 301

Respect and Responsibility: Throughout this course we will engage in productive discussion about many controversial topics. It is important that these academic discussions remain respectful and constructive. With that in mind: rude, disrespectful, intimidating or unprofessional language in any communication or assignment in this course will not be permitted and may result in a reduction of your grade. We will also discuss specific facts of criminal cases in detail. If a particular topic/case is particularly hard for you, please let me know and I will do my best to accommodate.

Academic Integrity: UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi. Be aware that under no circumstances will cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty be tolerated in this class.

Mental Health and Wellness @ UGA: If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services. UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.

Disability Resources @ UGA: If you anticipate needing classroom or exam accommodations due to the impact of a disability or medical condition, you must register for services with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). I will accommodate requests from the DRC in this course. Additional information can be found here: <http://drc.uga.edu/>

PROHIBITION ON RECORDING LECTURES: In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students **may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course**. Students who have a recording accommodation agree in writing that they: Will use the records only for personal academic use during the specific course; Understand that faculty members have copyright interest in their class lectures and that they agree not to infringe on this right in any way; Understand that the faculty member and students in the class have privacy rights and agree not to violate those rights by using recordings for any reason other than their own personal study; Will not release, digitally upload, broadcast, transcribe, or otherwise share all or any part of the recordings. They also agree that they will not profit financially and will not allow others to benefit personally or financially from lecture recordings or other course materials; Will erase/delete all recordings at the end of the semester; Understand that violation of these terms may subject them to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct or subject them to liability under copyright laws.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Important Dates:

Drop/Add ends	January 14	Group Meetings	April 7
Midterm	March 3	Last Day of Class	May 3
Spring Break-	March 7-11	FINALS-Tuesday	May 10
Withdrawal Deadline	March 24		

POLS 4730 Criminal Law Spring 2022

Tuesday/Thursday 11:10am-12:25pm, Baldwin Hall 301

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Face coverings:

Following guidance from the University System of Georgia, face coverings are recommended for all individuals while inside campus facilities.

How can I obtain the COVID-19 vaccine?

University Health Center is scheduling appointments for students through the UHC Patient Portal (https://patientportal.uhs.uga.edu/login_dualauthentication.aspx). Learn more here – <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/covid-vaccine>.

The Georgia Department of Health, pharmacy chains and local providers also offer the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to you. To find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, please go to: <https://georgia.gov/covid-vaccine>.

In addition, the University System of Georgia has made COVID-19 vaccines available at 15 campuses statewide and you can locate one here: <https://www.usg.edu/vaccination>

What do I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?

Students showing COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate and get tested. You can schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I test positive for COVID-19? (Isolation guidance)

If you test positive for COVID-19 at any time, either through a PCR test, an Antigen test, or a home test kit, you are **required to report it** through the [DawgCheck Test Reporting Survey](#). Follow the instructions provided to you when you report your positive test result in DawgCheck.

As of December 29, 2021, when an individual receive a positive COVID-19 test: Everyone, **regardless of vaccination status**, should:

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house and return to class.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

What do I do if I have been exposed to COVID-19? (Quarantine guidance)

If you have been exposed (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period – unmasked**) to someone with COVID-19 or to someone with a positive COVID-19 test and you are:

- Boosted, or have become fully vaccinated within the last 6 months (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or within the last 2 months (J&J vaccine)
 - You do not need to quarantine at home and may come to class.
 - You should wear a mask around others for 10 days.

POLS 4730 Criminal Law
Spring 2022

Tuesday/Thursday 11:10am-12:25pm, Baldwin Hall 301

- If possible, get tested on day 5.
- If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.
- Unvaccinated, or became fully vaccinated more than 6 months ago (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or more than 2 months ago (J&J vaccine) and have not received a booster:
 - You must quarantine at home for 5 days. After that you may return to class but continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
 - If possible, get tested on day 5.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.

** “Masked-to-masked” encounters are not currently considered an exposure; this type of interaction would not warrant quarantine.

You should report the need to quarantine on [DawgCheck \(https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/\)](https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/), and communicate directly with your faculty to coordinate your coursework while in quarantine. If you need additional help, reach out to Student Care and Outreach (sco@uga.edu) for assistance.

Monitoring conditions:

Note that the guidance referenced in this syllabus is subject to change based on recommendations from the Georgia Department of Public Health, the University System of Georgia, or the Governor’s Office. For the latest on UGA policy, you can visit coronavirus.uga.edu.

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Spring 2022 Readings Schedule

Expect Changes, check eLC for updates

Week	Date	Topics	Readings (Complete Readings on eLC)
1	1/11	Syllabus, Criminal Law in the News	p. 9-11 (You Decide 1.1 on eLC)
	1/13	The Nature, Purpose, and Function of Criminal Law	Lippman, Chapter 1
2	1/18	Constitutional Limitations	Lippman, Chapter 2
	1/20		
3	1/25	Punishment and Sentencing	Lippman, Chapter 3
	1/27		
4	2/1	Actus Reus	Lippman, Chapter 4
	2/3		
5	2/8	<i>Mens Rea</i> , Concurrence, and Causation	Lippman, Chapter 5
	2/10		
6	2/15	Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability	Lippman, Chapter 6
	2/17	Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability Exam Review	
7	2/22	EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-6)	
	2/24	Misdemeanors: Introduction, Data Issues	Natapoff, p.1-55
8	3/1	Misdemeanors: Process and Impacts	Natapoff, p. 56-148
	3/3	Misdemeanors: History and Change	Natapoff, p. 149-246
SPRING BREAK 3/7-3/11			
9	3/15	Attempt, Conspiracy, and Solicitation	Lippman, Chapter 7
	3/17		
	3/18	BOOK ASSIGNMENT DUE	
10	3/22	Justifications	Lippman, Chapter 8
	3/24		
11	3/29	Excuses	Lippman, Chapter 9
	3/31		
12	4/5	Homicide	Lippman, Chapter 10
	4/7	Group meetings (no scheduled class)	
13	4/12	Homicide	Lippman, Chapter 10
	4/14	Criminal Sexual Conduct, Assault and Battery, Kidnapping, and False Imprisonment	Lippman, Chapter 11
14	4/19	Criminal Sexual Conduct, Assault and Battery, Kidnapping, and False Imprisonment	Lippman, Chapter 11
	4/21	Burglary, Trespass, Arson, and Mischief	Lippman, Chapter 12
15	4/26	Burglary, Trespass, Arson, and Mischief	Lippman, Chapter 12
	4/28	Catch-up/Exam Review	
16	5/3	EXAM 2 (Chapters 7-12)	
FINAL	5/10	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	