
First Class Assignment:

Class One: Please enroll in the LexisNexis web course (112131), Criminal Law as soon as possible. For first year day students, you should receive LexisNexis login information during Orientation. For second year students enrolled in the evening, you should already have your Lexis ID and password. If not, Lexis representatives will be available during orientation to assist you.

(1) Please also read the text, Criminal Law, 9th Edition, Moenseens, Bacigal, Ashdown, and Gershowitz, pages 3-14 and come to the first class prepared to engage in class discussion.

(2) Also, during our first class we will discuss the facts and legal theories surrounding the death of Freddie Gray, the Baltimore man who died in police custody in April, 2015. Six Baltimore police officers were charged in Freddie Gray’s death. Please read about the Gray case in any news source such as the Baltimore Sun, Washington Post, CNN or MSNBC. Come to class prepared to discuss the following:

- As a prosecutor, what facts and mental state would you emphasize to the jury and what crime(s) would you charge the defendants with and why?
- As a defense attorney, what facts and mental state would you emphasize to the jury and what are your defense theories and why?

Class Two: Please read the text, pages 15-34.
All assignments are in the book, *MOENSSSENS, BACIGAL, ASHDOWN & HENCH, CRIMINAL LAW: CASES AND COMMENTS* (9th edition) (Foundation Press, 2013). Each student is to read and brief the entire case beginning at the assigned page, come to class prepared to discuss the case, and also read the notes immediately following the case. Students are responsible for: (1) all assignments in the casebook, as listed below; (2) the Maryland Statutes specifically discussed in class; and (3) those additional materials on criminal law covered during class discussions. Announcements and class assignments are available on the Lexis Nexis web course.

**Reading Assignment**

**Part I. The Criminal Justice System Legal Concepts of Criminality**

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Exam discussion
1) **Office Hours**

My office is located in Room 1116. My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday noon-1:00pm, 5:15 pm to 6:15 pm. Feel free to stop by at any time to discuss criminal law, career choices, or anything else. You may also call me, e-mail me, or we can schedule an appointment. I also will remain in the classroom after each class is over to answer any questions you may have on the materials covered. I am, however less available immediately prior to class for questions.

2) **Attendance Policy**

My approach as to class attendance is that a student should make a reasonable effort to attend all classes within the semester. You are all adults and do make choices, such as attending or missing class. If you are unable to attend, for illness or any other reason, you may miss a maximum of 5 classes within the semester (See Attendance-General Policy which can be found at http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/internal/policies-procedures/attendance.cfm). It’s not necessary for you to advise me *why* you missed class. One exception is with respect to religious holidays (See Attendance-Religious Policy which can be found at http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/internal/policies-procedures/attendance.cfm).

I would also ask you to make all reasonable efforts to arrive to class on-time, as you will be expected to arrive to court on time. My view is that arriving late is disruptive to the class. Remember, the practice of law requires respect for others. I recognize there are situations which result in late arrivals, such as car trouble, traffic congestion, and other unforeseen events. If you need to enter the classroom late, I will forgive you, but please do not make a habit of it!

3) **Class Cancellation**

There will be no class on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 and Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

4) **Exam and Grades**

Criminal Law is subject to the Law School’s mandatory grading range. The class-wide average is to be in the range of 2.670 and 3.000. Your grade will be based primarily on the final exam and if a mid-term is given, a combination of final exam and mid-term. I will advise you of my intention regarding a mid-term in a timely manner. In the past, I have given a mid-term exam, which I count 20% of the final grade and the final exam counts 80% of the final grade. The final exam will be a three hour closed book exam. Students are permitted to use computers to type their exam. Class participation is also considered; if your class participation is extraordinary and your exam grade is between two grades, I may bring you up to a higher grade.