

CRIMINAL LAW & INTRODUCTION TO LAWYERING SKILLS
PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS— FALL 2023
LAW 614 AND 614A—SECTION 319C
PROFESSOR ROB KNOWLES

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:

Professor Rob Knowles – rknowles@ubalt.edu, AL 1011

Office Hours:

- Tuesdays, 12:15-1:15 p.m. in person in AL 1011
- I am also happy to make appointments via email to chat at other times, in person or on Zoom.
- Virtual Office Hours Zoom Link: <https://ubalt.zoom.us/j/98509006991> [no password]

Administrative Assistant: Latosha Davis – ldavis@ubalt.edu, AL 1006

ILS Teaching Assistants: Juhi Naik – juhi.naik@ubalt.edu
Bella Winslow – bellany.winslow@ubalt.edu

Law Scholar: Rory Rightmyer – rory.rightmyer@ubalt.edu

Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00-11:45 a.m. in Room AL 403
We will also use the Wednesday, 10:30-11:45 a.m. slot periodically for classes in AL 102

MEETING SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments for the first week of class are below. A complete schedule of all meetings and a list of assignments for both courses will be separately posted. In the meantime, here is some information about course meetings:

- Most Tuesdays and Thursdays, we will have one continuous in-person meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., including breaks. Please come prepared at 9 having completed all assignments for that day.
- Many weeks, we will have an additional class on Wednesday from 10:30-11:45 a.m. Please review the schedule and make sure these classes are in your calendar. Although we will not use this slot every week, do not schedule other activities for that time.
- You will be assigned quizzes and writing assignments frequently, usually every week. Keep careful track of all assignments and make sure you are submitting them on time. Some assignments will be due on days when we do not have a class meeting.
- Some meetings may be held remotely via Zoom if circumstances require it. I will let you know well in advance so you can plan your schedule accordingly.
- Our last day of class will be Tuesday, November 28.

FIRST WEEK'S ASSIGNMENTS:

Tue., Aug. 22 – 9:00-11:45 a.m.

1. Introduction to Criminal Law—Theories of Punishment

- *Dudley and Stephens*
- Read this syllabus carefully
- Read the Dressler Casebook (see course materials below), pp. 34-44; 45-56
- Handout: *Criminal Law - Outline of Topics* (on Canvas). These are the topics we'll cover this semester. You may wish to use this document as the starting point for your course outline.

2. Introduction to Lawyering Skills: How Lawyers Communicate; Sources and Systems of Law

- A Lawyer Writes* (see Course Materials below), pp. xix-xx (Introduction), 3-14 (Chapter 1), 15-31 (Chapter 2)

Thurs., Aug. 24 – 9:00-11:45 a.m.

1. Sources of Criminal Law; Sentencing

- *Du*
- Model Penal Code (MPC) §1.02
- To give you insights into how to read statutes, rules, and judicial opinions, start by carefully reading *A Lawyer Writes*, pp. 33-59. Take your time with this reading. It is probably the most important reading you will do during your first semester of law school.
- Now use the approaches laid out in *A Lawyer Writes* to do the reading in the Criminal Law casebook.
- Read the Dressler Casebook, pp. 56-64; 1020-1021
- Handout: Excerpt from Robinson and Dubber, *The American Model Penal Code: A Brief Overview* (Canvas)
- Access “*Du* Case Brief” on Canvas. Read *How to Brief a Criminal Law Case* (attached to the Assignment).
- Brief *Du* (both opinions). Use the *Case Brief Template* attached to the Assignment. Submit the assignment before class begins.

2. Breaking Apart a Legal Rule

- A Lawyer Writes*, 61-71 (Chapter 4)

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Materials You Must Purchase or Rent:

- JOSHUA DRESSLER & STEPHEN GARVEY, *CRIMINAL LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS* (9th ed., 2022).
- CHRISTINE COUGHLIN, JOAN MALMUD ROCKLIN, AND SANDY PATRICK, *A LAWYER WRITES: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO LEGAL ANALYSIS* (3rd ed.) (ISBN: 1531008763)
- *THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION* (21st ed.)¹ (ISBN: 0578666154) (<https://www.legalbluebook.com/pricing>)

¹ Students from previous classes recommend buying the Bluebook rather than renting it.

Required Materials Provided for You at No Cost:

We will also be using additional books and online tools for ILS that will be provided to you by the Law Library at Orientation. Do not purchase these independently. The Law Library will also provide you access to Lexis, Bloomberg, Westlaw, and CALI. Email lawlibref@ubalt.edu if you have any issues accessing these online sources.

- AMY E. SLOAN, RESEARCHING THE LAW: FINDING WHAT YOU NEED WHEN YOU NEED IT (4TH ED.)
- DIONNE E. ANTHON, THE BLUEBOOK UNCOVERED: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO MASTERING LEGAL CITATION (2d ed.) (Download now for free here: <http://dionneanthon.com/bbu/bbu21.html>)

Required Online Services:

- You are required to sign up for several (free) online services for these courses. You will receive instructions for accessing these platforms during Orientation.
- The most important is the **Canvas** site—one site for both courses. The Canvas site will be a one-stop shop for course announcements, schedule updates, assignment submission, videos, handouts, etc.
- When it is posted, the Assignment List will include exercises and tests from **Core Grammar for Lawyers**, at coregrammarforlawyers.com.
- You will have access to a large collection of online exercises—on Criminal Law and many other topics—through **CALI** (Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction).
- Having **technology issues**? Contact the Office of Technology Services (OTS), at callcenter@ubalt.edu, or 410.837.6262. The Office of Technology Services (OTS) provides overall technology support to the UBalt community.

Getting Help

- Juhi and Bella are the Teaching Assistants for ILS; Rory is the Law Scholar for Criminal Law. They are all there to help and have a great deal of insight and experience. Rory will conduct regular Criminal Law review sessions, and Bella and Juhi will teach some ILS sessions and give you feedback on some assignments. They all can answer general questions about the courses and 1L life. They can also serve as a conduit for concerns about the courses. If need be, you can speak to them confidentially and they will relay concerns to me anonymously.
- I am always available to answer questions or just to talk. I will usually stay to chat after class is completed. I have office hours. And I will make appointments.
- For general questions or concerns about academic challenges—including preparing for and participating in your classes, reviewing and outlining for exams, and studying for and taking exams—I strongly encourage you to contact Prof. Marta Baffy (mbaffy@ubalt.edu; 410-837-6370.). Prof. Baffy runs UB Law's Academic Support Program. Prof. Baffy's office is located on the 5th floor in Room AL 513. Don't hesitate to reach out!
- For help with writing basics, I encourage you to make an appointment with the Writing Center: http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/academic-support/legal_writing_center/.
- In general, you should engage with your fellow students and talk to whomever you choose as you study for this course. However, *when it comes to written assignments and*

exams, you **cannot** get help from students, your parents, friends, paralegals, or anyone else. No collaboration is allowed on your assignments for this course unless Professor Knowles says so explicitly. In case of doubt, ask Professor Knowles.

Accommodations: If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an accommodation for academic programs, exams, or access to the University’s facilities, please contact Erin Brady, the Law School’s Director of Student Support, at ebrady@ubalt.edu or the University’s Office of Disability and Access Services at das@ubalt.edu. *Note that classroom accommodation requests should be submitted 2 weeks before the start of the semester (by August 7, 2023). Exam accommodation requests should be submitted no later than 2 weeks after the start of the semester (by September 5, 2023).*

GRADES

You will receive one grade for Criminal Law and one grade for ILS.

The Criminal Law grade will be based on a midterm exam (20%), a final exam (80%), and professionalism. The midterm and final examinations will test your knowledge of the subjects covered in this course, as well as your critical thinking, legal analysis, and argument skills.

Your professionalism—or lack thereof—may help or hurt your grade by up to one step (*e.g.*, B+ to A-, or B- to C+). Professionalism means being on time and prepared to participate. “On time” means you are present in the classroom, paying attention, volunteering to answer questions, and responding promptly when called on. “Prepared” means you have read the work assigned, briefed the relevant cases, carefully analyzed the rules mentioned in the readings, and looked up any words or terms in the readings that you did not understand. This is not like your undergraduate political science class, where you just skimmed the reading and got a general idea of what was going on. You need to read and think about every word because that’s what lawyers must do to be successful.

The ILS grade will be determined on the basis of your performance on (1) legal writing assignments, (2) the research and citation modules, (3) the exercises in Core Grammar for Lawyers, and (4) professionalism. You will receive more information about these assignments closer to the start of classes.

ABOUT THESE COURSES

These courses integrate criminal law with legal analysis, writing, and research to give beginning law students an opportunity to combine skills and doctrine as practicing lawyers do. The goals of the Criminal Law course are to introduce students to the general concepts, doctrine, and vocabulary of the criminal law; the modes of criminal law argument practiced by prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges; and the debates that affect the criminal law’s development and change. Students will learn criminal law through statutory interpretation, case analysis, rule synthesis, and legal research and writing projects. ILS introduces students to a broad range of lawyering skills, including the following—critical case reading, analysis and briefing; common law principles and processes; factual analogy and distinction; rule synthesis and application; objective and predictive writing; case law and statutory research; citation; and professional norms.

By the end of these courses, students will be able to do the following:

1. Explain core criminal law concepts, including legality, actus reus, mens rea, causality, defenses, attempt, accomplice liability, and vicarious liability;
2. Identify the elements of various crimes, defenses, and doctrines as set out in cases and statutes;
3. Apply criminal law doctrine to new factual scenarios in the mode of a prosecutor, defense attorney, law clerk, or judge;
4. Participate in criminal law debates in an informed manner;
5. Read and analyze cases and other sources of law by identifying the rule, holding, and determinative facts of cases;
6. Identify the elements of a rule and apply rules to facts;
7. Research and properly cite legal authorities, such as cases, statutes, and secondary sources;
8. Write predictive memoranda on legal issues, taking into account the weight and value of different authority; and
9. Build legal writing and grammar skills.

LAW SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attend all class meetings! Class attendance is a critical component of the learning process and reflects professional responsibility. Research demonstrates that students who regularly attend class are more likely to succeed. Additionally, the American Bar Association accreditation standards mandate that a law school adopt, publish, and adhere to a policy for regular class attendance for all students. In alignment with this policy, regular and punctual class attendance is a condition of receiving credit in all courses at the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Modality

For a student to be considered present, their attendance must be consistent with the modality of the specific class meeting. For example, if a class meeting is in-person, a student must attend in-person to be considered present. If a class meeting is virtual, a student must attend virtually to be considered present.

Student Attendance Requirements

As detailed in the chart below, the number of absences a student may accrue is determined by the total number of times a course is scheduled to meet throughout the semester.

Number of scheduled meetings	Number of absences
Fall and spring semesters, 2 or more meetings per week	4
Fall and spring semesters, 1 meeting per week	2
Summer semester	2

A student whose accrued absences exceed the limits above will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of FA (failure due to excessive absence) unless the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs extends the limit, up to the following maximums: (1) in the fall and spring semesters, up to 4 additional absences for a course scheduled to meet 2 or more times per week; (2) in the fall and spring semesters, up to 2 additional absences for a course scheduled to meet once per week;

(3) in the summer semester, up to 1 additional absence. A student whose accrued absences exceed the extended limit will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of FA.

A student who anticipates accruing excessive absences may be eligible for a Leave of Absence and should contact the Dean of Students to discuss available options.

Bases for Extensions

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs can extend the number of absences a student may accrue based on a student's religious observance or extraordinary individual circumstances.

Extraordinary individual circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following: bereavement (as defined in the [University of Baltimore Student Bereavement Policy](#)), significant physical or mental health incidents, and attendance at activities required for academic credit, such as clinic court appearances and moot court competitions.

Minor illnesses, doctor's appointments, traffic, practice rounds for student competitions, personal events, and professional events (including those sponsored by the law school) are examples of circumstances that do not qualify as extraordinary individual circumstances.

A student must provide documentation for extraordinary individual circumstances upon request and must provide advance notice to the Faculty Member whenever possible.

Attendance Tracking Procedures

To keep attendance, this class will use attendance software called **Qwickly**. At the beginning of each class, the instructor will provide you with a pin number. To be counted as present, you must log into the Canvas site for the course. Click "Qwickly Attendance (Law)" on the left side of the navigation bar and enter the pin. Qwickly will automatically email you if you are marked absent for the day. If you believe this email was sent in error, please contact the professor and their administrative assistant immediately.

Class Cancellation

If a class meeting is cancelled, you will receive a UBalt email letting you know. If you do not receive such a message, assume that class will occur as scheduled, whether or not the instructor arrives late.

OTHER LAW SCHOOL POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Recordings:

Classes will be recorded and available on the course Panopto folder, which you can access through Canvas. Some recordings may be flawed, however, due to classroom technology limitations. Review the policies below on the use of class recordings.

UB Law Recording Statement

Any class recordings, audio or video, are for the sole use of that specific class instruction and study and may not be used or reproduced by students for any other purpose. Similarly, students may not capture video, audio, images, or chat text from a class without permission from the instructor for use specific to that class instruction and study, and such images may not be used or reproduced by students for any other purpose. Violating these directions is an honor code violation.

UB University Recording Statement

All class recordings are for the sole use of the class and may not be reproduced by students for any other purpose. Faculty cannot reproduce students' voices or images from the class for any other purpose without additional student consent. All such recordings are protected by a UB login process based on where they are posted. Students may mute their microphone or turn off their camera if they do not consent to be recorded, but this may mean they need to find additional ways to participate in the class discussion. Students may be required to turn on their cameras and participate in graded class activities. In addition, students who turn off their camera and do not remain present for the class session may be subject to the Honor Code for misrepresenting attendance.

Academic Integrity: Students are obligated to refrain from acts that they know or, under the circumstances, have reason to know will impair the academic integrity of the University and/or the School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating; plagiarism; misuse of library materials; use of another's book or study materials without consent; unapproved multiple submissions; material misrepresentation of one's academic history or standing; misrepresentation of any academic matter; intentionally giving another student false or inaccurate information about class requirements; inappropriate discussion of exams; and misrepresenting or falsifying class attendance reports.

The School of Law Honor Code and information about the process is available at https://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor_code/index.cfm.

Course Expectations—Amount of Work Required: American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools establish guidelines for the amount of work students should expect to complete for each credit earned. Students should expect approximately one hour of classroom instruction and two hours of out-of-class work per week for each credit earned in a class, or an equivalent amount of work for other academic activities, such as simulations, externships, clinical supervision, co-curricular activities, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours. [See ABA Standard 310](#).

Course Evaluations: It is a requirement of this course that students complete a course evaluation. The evaluation will be available later in the semester *and is entirely anonymous*. Faculty members will not have access to the feedback provided on course evaluations *until after all grades are submitted*.

Title IX Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy: The University of Baltimore's Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination policy is compliant with Federal laws prohibiting discrimination. Title IX requires that faculty, student employees and staff members report to the university any known, learned or rumored incidents of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking on the basis of sex, dating/intimate partner violence or sexual exploitation and/or related experiences or incidents. Policies and procedures related to Title IX and UB's nondiscrimination policies can be found at: <http://www.ubalt.edu/titleix>.

Disability Policy: The law school works hard to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For detailed information on reasonable accommodations, please [see the student handbook](#).

General Student Issues & Mental Health:

For general student issues, students should contact Dean Paul Manrique (pmanrique@ubalt.edu; 410-837-5283). For mental health concerns, students can contact Dean Manrique or Stephen Mogar, the University's Clinical Case Manager (smogar@ubalt.edu ; 410-837-6388). Dean Manrique's office is located in the AL 7th floor Dean's Suite and he welcomes students to walk in. Both Dean Manrique and Mr. Mogar are also able to schedule phone and zoom appointments.

Academic Support:

For questions about academic challenges, including preparing for and participating in your classes, reviewing and outlining for exams, and studying for and taking exams, students should contact Prof. Marta Baffy (mbaffy@ubalt.edu; 410-837-6370.). Prof. Baffy's office is located on the 5th floor in Room AL 513.