

CRIMINAL LAW FIRST DAY ASSIGNMENT

- Please download and read the course syllabus. Pay careful attention to the “Required online services” (Canvas, Dressler Casebook Plus, and CALI).
- Make sure you have purchased the course textbook (Joshua Dressler and Stephen Garvey, *CRIMINAL LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS* (9th Ed., 2022)). *Note: You must purchase the online access to this casebook, see pp.7-8 of the syllabus (version 1).*
- The assigned readings from the textbook for class one are: (1) pp. 9-10 (Proof of Guilt at Trial/ “Proof Beyond a Reasonable Doubt”); and (2) pp. 14-18 (*Owens v. State* case).
- Be prepared to answer the following questions about the *Owens* case:
 - What happened “in real life” (IRL) in the *Owens* case? In other words, what is the story of the events that led to a criminal prosecution?
 - What crime was Mr. Owens charged with?
 - Based on what you can glean from the opinion as well as your own common sense, what are the *elements* of the crime Mr. Owens was charged with? In other words, what specific facts did the prosecution have to prove to secure a conviction?
 - The opinion in the casebook reports the result of Mr. Owens’ appeal of his conviction at trial. Based on your reading of the opinion, what do you think Mr. Owens’ theory was for why his conviction should be reversed? In other words, what appears to have been Mr. Owens’ argument? Did his argument persuade the appellate court?
 - Why does the court say this “is a classic case of circumstantial evidence” (p. 16)? What were the factual propositions that were proved at trial by circumstantial evidence?
 - What does “inference” mean? What are the key factual inferences made in this case? Are there competing inferences that you find persuasive?
 - What do you think is answer to Question 5 on p. 19 of the textbook?