

CRIMINAL LAW
COURSE INFORMATION AND SYLLABUS

Professor
Colin Starger
cstarger@ubalt.edu
Office: ALS 718

Administrative Assistant
Abraham Rodriguez
arodriguez@ubalt.edu
Office: ALS 700

Law Scholar
Emmet Hallameyer
emmett.hallameyer@ubalt.edu

Class Meeting Times (AL1002)
Mon, Wed: 10:30-11:45am

Law Scholar Meeting Time
TBA

Prof. Starger Office Hours: TBA;
Virtual Office Hours Zoom Link: <https://ubalt.zoom.us/my/colinstarger> [no password]
Also, I am also happy to make appointments via email to chat at other times.

Key Links

Our Class Canvas page: <https://ubalt.instructure.com/courses/3109>
Panopto Folder link: <https://tinyurl.com/5n83fyhh>
Westlaw Bookshelf
(Dressler Quizzes): <https://eproducts.westacademic.com/MyBookshelf>

Class Zoom link (if necessary): <https://ubalt.zoom.us/j/95495682188> [pass = *mens_rea*]

Course Textbook

Joshua Dressler & Stephen Garvey, CRIMINAL LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS (9th ed., 2022).
Note: Please make sure you purchase the online access for this book.

Required Online Services

- Much of our course will unfold on Canvas, UB's official Learning Management System (LMS). Canvas will contain handouts, links to lectures on Panopto, and much more. In addition, we will take class attendance and I will send class announcements through Canvas.
- We will also use CALI (Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction), a free online law teaching resource and the online supplement for the Dressler Casebook. Instructions for signing up for these services appear at the end of this syllabus.

Getting Help

- (1) Emmet is your Criminal Law Scholar. He is there to help and has a great deal of insight and experience. In addition to answering general questions about the course and 1L life, he can also serve as a conduit for concerns about the course. If need be, you can speak to Emmet confidentially and she will relay concerns to me anonymously.
- (2) 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. Don't be shy!
- (3) For general questions about academic challenges including preparing for and participating in your classes, reviewing and outlining for exams, and studying for and taking exams, students

can 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

- (4) 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 your parents, friends, paralegals, or anyone else. No collaboration is allowed on your assignments for this course unless Professor Starger says so explicitly. In case of doubt, ask Professor Starger.

GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The goals of this course are to introduce students to (a) the general concepts and vocabulary of the criminal law; (b) the modes of criminal law argument practiced by prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges; and (c) the debates that affect the criminal law's development and change. By the end of this course, student will be able to:

- Explain core criminal law concepts including legality, actus reus, mens rea, causality, defenses, attempt, accomplice liability, and vicarious liability;
- Identify the elements of various crimes as set out in cases and statutes;
- Apply criminal law doctrine to new factual scenarios in the mode of a prosecutor, defense attorney, and/or judge; and
- Participate in criminal law debates in an informed manner.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Your final grade will be based on: Participation (10%); Midterm (20%); Final (70%).

Please note that grading in Criminal Law is subject to the mandatory 1L curve. This curve is explained in the student handbook:

All first year courses are subject to the following grading guidelines: Each faculty member teaching a section of any first year course shall have an average grade for the section taught by that faculty member, i.e., the arithmetic average of all of the grades assigned to students in the section, that is no lower than 2.67 and is no higher than 3.00. Grades shall be distributed within the required first year courses as follows: between 15-25% shall be grades of A- or higher and between 7-14% shall be grades of C- or below, except that, in each section of Introduction to Lawyering Skills the 7-14% range of grades of C- or lower is recommended but not required.

MIDTERM & FINAL DATES + EXAM ACCOMMODATION

- Midterm Exam – Wednesday October 11.
- Final – TBA

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 must be submitted no later than 2 weeks after the start of the semester (by September 5, 2023).*

SYLLABUS

Acronym	Meaning
DR	Dressler (Course Textbook)
MPC	Model Penal Code (on Canvas, in Dressler)
HO	Handout on Canvas
CALI	Online Legal Instruction (link in Canvas)
DR Quiz	Dressler Online Quizzes

This syllabus is an evolving document and is subject to change. For version 1.0, you only have the first two weeks. Please make sure you have the latest version (see footer).

	TOPIC	READING
WEEK 1		
Class 1: Mon 8/21	Introduction: Law and Fact <i>Owens</i>	DR: 9-10, 14-18 HO: First Day Assignment
Class 2: Wed 8/23	Justice and Criminal Law Overview <i>Ragland</i>	DR: 19-23, 23-29 (skim) HO: Second Day Assignment HO: How to Brief a Criminal Law Case HO: Model Penal Code Excerpts
WEEK 2		
Class 3: Mon 8/28	Legality <i>Mochan, Keeler, Banks</i>	DR: 95-113 MPC 1.05
Class 4: Wed 8/30	Actus Reus – voluntary act, omission <i>Martin, Utter, Beardsley, Barber</i>	DR: 133-159 MPC 2.01

CLASS POLICIES

1. Course Expectations -- 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. [See ABA Standard 310](#). Since our class is 3 credits, this translates to approximately 3 hours of in-class instruction and 6 hours of out-of-class work per week.

2. Attendance –

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’s 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**. Qwickly is hosted in Canvas, UB's official learning management system. With Qwickly the professor will have a choice to either take attendance manually OR to have you check-in using a pin number generated at the start of class.

To check-in for class using a pin number, you must log into the Canvas site for the course via myUB or at this link <https://ubalt.instructure.com/courses/3109>. Click "Qwickly Attendance" 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.

- 3. Preparation** – This class relies on everyone being fully prepared to participate in the day's discussion. At the most basic level, this means completing the assigned reading and/or videos. **Please note that I actually expect that you will read much of the material – especially the assigned cases -- at least twice.** This is because learning to read and understand cases and statutes is hard and takes work. Repetition is key. Often, you will still have lingering confusion even after reading a case two or three times. During Socratic questioning, I am happy to work with students who are struggling to understand. However, I have less patience for students who are unprepared.
- 4. Professionalism** – Learning cannot effectively take place in an environment that is unprofessional or uncivil. To that end, I expect that you will observe basic professional courtesies such as arriving on time and turning off your cell phone. **Given our subject matter, it is my hope that we can have lively class debates where all students feel comfortable participating and expressing their opinions.** Respect for your colleagues is vital to fostering a healthy debate environment. At all times, remain mindful of the diversity of perspectives and experiences in our classroom and be respectful as you articulate your arguments. We need not agree on everything, but we do need to disagree professionally.

Note: Please contact me or Emmet (your law scholar) if something related to our class debates or discussions makes you feel uncomfortable or otherwise interferes with your ability to learn. You may speak confidentially with me or confidentially/anonymously with your law scholar. I will make every effort to address any issues raised.

5. Class Recording Policy

My general policy is to record all Criminal Law classes and upload to Panopto.

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.

- 6. Class Cancellation-** If I must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via email.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Title IX Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination 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>

- 9. 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](#).

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).*

- 10. 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.

- 11. 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.

ONLINE SERVICES

1. Access to Canvas

- You will be able to access Canvas by August 14, 2023.

2. Access to the Dressler Casebook Plus

We will use the Electronic Casebook to administer quizzes. It is also a useful source for reference material. To access, do the following:

- Go to eproducts.westacademic.com
- Sign in or create an account.
- Click to open Cases and Materials on Criminal Law from your bookshelf.
- Click the Enroll in a Course button and enter this course code: **CRSE-EYD5-6HR8-7ZRA-D18A**

If you don't see a picture of Cases and Materials on Criminal Law on your bookshelf when you log on to eproducts.westacademic.com, perform either of the following:

- Click the Redeem Code button on the My Bookshelf page and enter the code that came with the casebook. Next, redeem your code.
- If you did not purchase a new book with a code, you can go to store.westacademic.com and purchase either the eBook/Learning Library or the Learning Library option for your casebook.

Customer Support Information for Dressler Casebook Plus Student Inquiries

If you have questions or need technical support:

Call: **1-877-888-1330 (option 4)**

Email: support@westacademic.com

3. Access to CALI (Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction)

- Go to <http://cali.org/user/register> and create your own CALI account.
- The “Authorization Code” you will need is: **BALTUVstu14**
- Use your UB email
- Access the lessons via our course Canvas page