

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Criminal Law
- **Code:** LLB15
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 2nd
- **Teaching Period:** Winter Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

Building on the introductory foundations of LLB3, this course offers an in-depth examination of substantive criminal law, with a focus on the general part of criminal liability and the systematic classification of offences. Students will revisit and deepen their understanding of *actus reus*, *mens rea*, causation, justification, and excuse, while engaging with complex issues such as attempt, participation, and concurrence of offences. Emphasis is placed on the normative structure of the Greek Penal Code, complemented by comparative references to German, French, and Anglo-American models. Through case-based analysis, the course explores both theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of criminal norms in scenarios involving personal injury, property crimes, inchoate offences, and crimes of negligence. Special attention is given to

doctrinal coherence, interpretative debates, and the relationship between legislative drafting and judicial interpretation. Students are encouraged to approach criminal law as a dynamic field of public law, balancing legal certainty with evolving social needs.

3. Keywords

Criminal Liability, Attempt and Participation, Comparative Criminal Law, Penalties, Special Part

4. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Recall and contextualise** the structural elements of criminal liability, including intent, unlawfulness, and causation, within the general part of criminal law. *(Remembering)*
2. **Explain** complex issues such as attempt, participation, concurrence of offences, and criminal negligence, using examples from Greek and comparative law. *(Understanding)*
3. **Apply** doctrinal rules to hypothetical scenarios involving both general and selected special part offences. *(Applying)*
4. **Analyse** the rationale, structure, and legal treatment of sanctions under the Greek Penal Code, including mitigation and alternatives to imprisonment. *(Analysing)*
5. **Critically evaluate** the coherence and evolution of criminal liability rules in light of contemporary legal reforms and social developments. *(Evaluating)*

5. General Skills to Be Acquired

- Apply knowledge in practice
- Retrieve, analyse, and synthesise data and information
- Adapt to new situations
- Make decisions
- Work in an international context

- Work in an interdisciplinary team
- Generate new research ideas
- Appreciate diversity and multiculturalism
- Respect the natural environment
- Be critical and self-critical
- Advance free, creative, and causative thinking

6. Course Content (Topics)

1. **Structure and Sources of Substantive Criminal Law: From Principles to Codification** – Revisiting legality, culpability, proportionality, and the architecture of the Greek Penal Code in comparative context.
2. **Constituent Elements of Criminal Offences: Unlawfulness, Fault, and Causation** – A detailed analysis of the objective and subjective elements of liability, with case-based illustrations.
3. **Attempt and Preparation: The Threshold of Criminal Conduct** – Differentiating complete and incomplete attempts, criminal preparation, and abandonment of effort.
4. **Participation and Complicity: Principals, Instigators, and Aiders** – Examining forms of co-perpetration and secondary liability in Greek and foreign legal systems.
5. **Offence Concurrence and Recidivism: Legal Treatment of Multiple Offences** – Exploring real and ideal concurrence, repeated offending, and cumulative penalties.
6. **General Defences: Justification and Excuse Revisited** – Advanced study of necessity, self-defence, duress, mistake, and mental incapacity.
7. **Negligence and Strict Liability: Beyond Intentional Conduct** – Exploring criminal liability for carelessness, recklessness, and risk-based offences.
8. **Sanctions in Criminal Law: Penalties, Measures, and Sentencing Principles** – Types of penalties, sentencing discretion, mitigation, and parole.
9. **Crimes against Life and Bodily Integrity: Homicide, Injury, and Exposure** – Selected special part offences with doctrinal focus and case illustration.
10. **Crimes against Property: Theft, Fraud, Embezzlement, and Extortion** – Analysing key economic crimes and their constituent elements under Greek and comparative law.

11. **Crimes against Honour and Privacy: Defamation, Insult, and Unlawful Disclosure** – Examining offences involving personality rights and balancing them with freedom of expression.
12. **Current Challenges in Criminal Law: Overcriminalisation, Legal Reform, and Digital Crime** – Evaluating the boundaries of criminalisation, legislative inflation, and new forms of harm.

7. Teaching Methods

- Lectures.
- Case law workshops.
- Student presentations and structured debate.
- Guided reading and legal reasoning exercises.

8. Assessment Methods

Method	Weight	Description
Final Written Exam	70%	Essay-type and case-based questions
Mid-Term Assignment/Presentation	20%	Individual or group-based
Participation and Engagement	10%	Constructive attendance, preparedness, contribution

Note: A minimum final exam score of 50% is required to pass.

9. A. Ethics

Students are reminded that all submitted work must comply with the University's academic [integrity policy](#). Plagiarism or unauthorised collaboration will result in disciplinary measures.

B. Course Policies

- Attendance is strongly encouraged.
- All assignments must be submitted on time via the designated platform.
- Special accommodations will be made for students with documented learning or health needs in accordance with university policy.

10. Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- **Use in Teaching:** (e.g. digital slides, audiovisual aids, interactive tools like Mentimeter)
- **Use in Communication:** (e.g. E-learning platform, Zoom/Google Meet for office hours)
- **Digital Resources:** (e.g. online legal databases, podcasts, video lectures)

11. Bibliography

- Books/E-Books
Ambos, K. (2018a). *European criminal law*. Cambridge University Press.

Briere, C. (2018). *The needed balances in EU criminal law: Past, present and future*. Hart Publishing.

De Hemptinne, J., Roth, R., & van Sliedregt, E. (2019). *Modes of liability in international criminal law*. Cambridge University Press.

Douglas-Jones Kc, B., Bunting, D., Mason, P., & Newton, B. (2023). *Human Rights in Criminal Law*. In *Human Rights in Criminal Law (e-book)*. Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781526519542>

Herring, Jonathan. (2024). *Criminal law : text, cases, and materials*. Oxford University Press.

Keiler, J., & Roef, D. (2019). *Comparative concepts of criminal law* (3rd ed.). Intersentia.

Mitsilegas, V. (2022). *EU Criminal Law (e-book)*. Hart Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781474203401>

Mitsilegas, Valsamis., Bergström, Maria., & Quintel, Teresa. (2024). *Research handbook on EU criminal law (e-book)*. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited.
<https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/research-handbook-on-eu-criminal-law-9781800886421.html>

Robinson, D. (2020). Justice in Extreme Cases: Criminal Law Theory Meets International Criminal Law. In *Justice in Extreme Cases: Criminal Law Theory Meets International Criminal Law (e-book)*. Cambridge University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781107300422>

Simester, A. P. (2021). Fundamentals of criminal law: Responsibility, culpability, and wrongdoing. In *Fundamentals of Criminal Law: Responsibility, Culpability, and Wrongdoing (e-book)*. Oxford University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198853145.001.0001>

Tyrrell, D. Á. J., & Douglas-Jones, B. (2025). AI in Criminal Law. In *AI in Criminal Law (e-book)*. Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.
<https://doi.org/10.5040/9781526531629>

Wieczorek, I. (2020a). The legitimacy of EU criminal law. Hart.

- Databases

Westlaw UK Academic	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
HeinOnline Academic Core and Kluwer Law International Journal Library	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Beck-online PREMIUM	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Oxford Public International Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Dalloz.fr	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
JURIS Zusatzmodul Hochschulen, BGB Staudinger Online	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/

Kluwer Law Online (30 journals)	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
IAReporter. Investment Arbitration Report	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Cambridge Core (Law)	https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/law
EBSCO	https://research.ebsco.com/c/quc7ji/search/advanced/filters?autocorrect=y&isDashboardExpanded=true
ProQuest Central	https://www.proquest.com/central/topicpaths/AbiGlobal_business/0?accountid=8359#0
Springer link	https://link.springer.com/
Taylor & Francis e-books	https://www.taylorfrancis.com/search?subject=SC LW
Taylor & Francis e-journals	https://www.tandfonline.com/subjects/law
The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800-1926 (Gale)	https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=MOML&u=arist&cookieConsent=true&analyticsOptout=false&aty=ip
Wiley online Library	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/showPublications?startPage=&ConceptID=85