

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Criminal Procedure
- **Code:** LLB24
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 3rd
- **Teaching Period:** Winter Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

This course introduces students to the principles, stages, and institutions of criminal procedure, with an emphasis on procedural safeguards, the structure of criminal justice systems, and the protection of individual rights. Beginning with the foundational values of due process and fair trial, the course traces the full trajectory of a criminal case, from initiation to final remedies, examining the roles of all key actors, including judges, prosecutors, defence counsel, and law enforcement authorities. Doctrinal instruction is combined with comparative analysis of adversarial and inquisitorial models, focusing on differences in pre-trial investigation, judicial oversight, evidentiary standards, and trial dynamics. Throughout the course, students critically assess issues such as pre-trial detention, the presumption of innocence, plea-bargaining, and the reasoning of

judgments, with reference to both national and transnational frameworks. European human rights standards, particularly those under the ECHR, are consistently integrated, allowing students to understand procedural guarantees in a broader normative context. Greek criminal procedure is treated as a reference point within a wider civil law tradition and examined in comparison with Anglo-American systems.

3. Keywords

Criminal Law, Criminal Procedural Law, Criminal Trial, Due Process, Fair Trial, Pre-trial Procedure, Evidentiary Standards, Comparative Criminal Justice

4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Identify** the main stages of criminal proceedings and the legal actors involved in both civil law and common law systems. (*Remembering*)
2. **Explain** key procedural principles such as the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial, and the role of evidentiary standards. (*Understanding*)
3. **Apply** procedural rules to hypothetical fact patterns involving arrest, investigation, trial, and remedies. (*Applying*)
4. **Compare and contrast** adversarial and inquisitorial systems with a focus on prosecutorial discretion, pre-trial detention, and trial procedure. (*Analysing*)
5. **Evaluate** the compatibility of special procedures, such as plea-bargaining, with fundamental rights protections under European and international standards. (*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)

No	Topic Title	Description	Suggested Practice or Discussion
1	Concept, Function, and Fundamental Principles of Criminal Procedure	Fair trial, presumption of innocence, adversarial vs. inquisitorial systems, purpose of procedural law	Discussion: why are some trials held behind closed doors? How does the presumption of innocence work in today's public discussion?
2	Subjects of the Criminal Process	Roles of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, plaintiffs, and law enforcement officials	Comparative analysis: the role of the judge and the prosecutor in civil law and common law systems
3	Initiation of Criminal Proceedings	Complaint, accusation, <i>ex officio</i> action, preliminary inquiry, prosecutorial discretion	Examine the rights of the detainee and the rights of the accused. Discussion: Miranda Rights and effective protection of the rights of the detainee as set by the standards of the ECHR
4	The Prosecution and its Preconditions	Conditions for lawful prosecution, legal vs.	Compare the evidentiary threshold needed for each

		discretionary prosecution, evidentiary threshold	stage of the criminal procedure timeline
5	Pre-trial Procedure and Preliminary Investigation	Evidence collection, powers of investigative bodies, rights of suspects	Exercise: Identify procedural violations in a flawed police report
6	Judicial (Main) Investigation	Defendant's statement, judicial control, adversarial safeguards	Discussion: What do we know about Juries? Evidentiary concern: what is hearsay in US law?
7	Pre-trial Detention and Restrictive Measures	Legal conditions for detention, proportionality, alternatives	Criminology discussion: preventive sentencing. Staying in prison after the completion of one's sentence and double jeopardy concerns
8	Judicial Councils and Indictment Orders	Details on how judicial councils work and the orders they issue	Draft outline of a mock indictment; identify its required content
9	The Main Trial Hearing	Opening statements, witness examination, submission of evidence, oral argument	Mock trial segment: Examine a witness and raise evidentiary objections A brief introduction to American legal trial and cross-examination Discussion: the right of confrontation under the ECHR and its protection

			under the civil law and common law trial system
10	Court Judgment and Sentencing	Structure of judgments, reasoning, aggravating/mitigating factors, parole	Write a short judicial decision based on a simple fact pattern
11	Legal Remedies (Appeals and Extraordinary Remedies)	Types of remedies, grounds, deadlines, legal effects	Case review: Is an appeal or cassation justified? On what grounds? Which one is constitutionally protected and which one is not? Why?
12	Special Procedures	Plea-bargaining	Comparative discussion: Is plea-bargaining compatible with fairness?

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/Mock Trial	20%	Individual or group-based

Method	Weight	Description
Participation and Mock Trial Preparation	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
Anagnostopoulos, H., & Magliveras, K. (2023). *Criminal Law in Greece* (e-book). Kluwer law international. https://koha.lib.auth.gr/cgi-bin/koha/catalogue/detail.pl?biblionumber=1170192&searchid=scs_1760351504314

Boas, G., Bischoff, J. L., Reid, N. L., & Taylor, B. D. (2013). *International criminal procedure*. Cambridge University Press.

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Davis, C. (2025). *Prosecutorial Discretion in International Criminal Justice*. In *Prosecutorial Discretion in International Criminal Justice* (e-book). Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035347162>

Heinze, A. (2014). *International criminal procedure and disclosure: An attempt to better understand and regulate disclosure and communication at the ICC on the basis of a comprehensive and comparative theory of criminal procedure*. Duncker & Humblot.

Heller, K. Jon., Mégret, F., Nouwen, S. M. H. ., Ohlin, J. David., & Robinson, Darryl. (2020). *The Oxford handbook of international criminal law* (e-book). Oxford University Press.

Herring, Jonathan. (2025). *Criminal law* (e-book). Hart

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Knoops, G.-J. A. (2024). *Documentary and Forensic Evidence at the International Criminal Court* (e-book). Brill | Nijhoff.

Long, M. A., McElroy, J. R., & Lynch, M. J. (2024). *Environmental crimes and the treadmill of production: Neoliberal policy and neocolonialism*. In *Research Handbook on Environmental Crimes and Criminal Enforcement* (e-book). Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035309511.00013>

de Meester, K. (2015). *The investigation phase in international criminal procedure: In search of common rules*. Intersentia.

Mitsilegas, V. (2024). *Research handbook on EU criminal law* (e-book) . Edward Elgar. <https://search.lib.auth.gr/Record/1170283?sid=50109787>

Mitsilegas, V. 1971-. (2022). *EU criminal law* (Second edition.). Hart Publishing, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing,.

Mitsilegas, Valsamis., Di Martino, Alberto., & Mancano, Leandro. (2019). *The Court of Justice and European criminal law : leading cases in a contextual analysis*/. Hart Publishing.

Robinson, Darryl. (2022). *Justice in extreme cases : criminal law theory meets international criminal law* (e-book). Cambridge University Press.

Safferling, C. J. M., & BünGENER, L. (2012). *International criminal procedure*. Oxford University Press.

Simester, A. P. . (2021). *Fundamentals of criminal law : responsibility, culpability, and wrongdoing* (e-book). Oxford University Press.

- 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