

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** EU and International Criminal Law
- **Code:** LLB29
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 3rd
- **Teaching Period:** Spring Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

This course explores the intersection of criminal law and transnational governance through three interconnected strands: European Union criminal law, international criminal law, and the extraterritorial application of domestic criminal statutes. The first part of the course focuses on criminal international law: the principles governing the extraterritorial application of national criminal law, including jurisdiction based on nationality, protection of state interests, universal jurisdiction, and issues of enforcement and cooperation. The second part turns to the development of EU criminal law, analysing the shift from intergovernmental cooperation to supranational norm setting, the harmonisation of offences and sanctions, and the operation of the principle of mutual recognition in instruments such as the European Arrest Warrant. Drawing on the work

of Kai Ambos, particular emphasis is placed on the normative foundations of EU competence in criminal matters, the evolving role of EU institutions, and the challenges of safeguarding fundamental rights in a multi-level criminal justice system. The third part of the course brings to the forefront issues pertaining to international criminal law, examining the core crimes under international law, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression, as well as the jurisdiction, structure, and jurisprudence of international tribunals, with particular focus on the International Criminal Court (ICC).

3. Keywords

EU Criminal Law, International Criminal Law, Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, Core Crimes, Mutual Recognition

4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Identify** the principal legal instruments, institutions, and competences relevant to criminal law within the European Union framework. (*Remembering*)
2. **Explain** the elements and legal foundations of core international crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression. (*Understanding*)
3. **Apply** rules of jurisdiction and cooperation to hypothetical cases involving extraterritorial or transnational criminal conduct. (*Applying*)
4. **Analyse** the operation of mutual recognition mechanisms, such as the European Arrest Warrant, and their interaction with fundamental rights. (*Analysing*)
5. **Evaluate** the effectiveness and legitimacy of supranational and international criminal enforcement in light of sovereignty, due process, and legal pluralism. (*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. **Jurisdiction in Criminal Law: Territoriality and Its Extensions** – Principles of jurisdiction in domestic criminal law: territorial, nationality-based, protective, universal, and quasi-territorial jurisdiction.
2. **Cross-Border Crime and the Enforcement of National Criminal Law Abroad** – Investigating and prosecuting transnational offences; extradition, cooperation, and enforcement challenges.
3. **Conflicts of Jurisdiction and the Principle of Non Bis In Idem** – Managing overlapping claims, forum allocation, and the prohibition of double jeopardy in multi-jurisdictional contexts.
4. **The Emergence of European Criminal Law: From Intergovernmental Cooperation to Lisbon** – Tracing the evolution of EU involvement in criminal law, from the Schuman Plan to the post-Lisbon framework.
5. **Supranational Legislation and the Concept of European Criminal Law** – Legal bases for EU action in criminal matters (Articles 83 and 325 TFEU); harmonisation and Europeanisation.
6. **Sources of EU Criminal Law: Treaties, Directives, and the Schengen Acquis** – Exploring the instruments that shape EU criminal law and their interplay with national legal systems.
7. **Fundamental Rights and Criminal Justice in the EU Legal Order** – The role of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the ECHR, and general principles of EU law in protecting procedural safeguards.
8. **Harmonisation of Substantive Criminal Law and the Principle of Mutual Recognition** – Approximation of offences and penalties; development of mutual trust and recognition in the area of freedom, security and justice.

9. **Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters: The European Arrest Warrant and Beyond** – From classical extradition to surrender and cross-border evidence gathering under mutual recognition regimes.
10. **The Institutional Framework of EU Criminal Law** – Analysing the mandates and interrelations of OLAF, Europol, Eurojust, the CJEU, and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).
11. **The Core Crimes of International Criminal Law** – Definitions and elements of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression under customary and treaty law.
12. **International Criminal Tribunals: ICTY/ICTR/MICT, ICC, and Hybrid Models** – Structures, jurisdictions, procedures, and legacy of international and hybrid courts in pursuing criminal accountability.

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. (2018). *Treatise on international criminal law: Volume III: International criminal procedure*. Oxford University Press.

Doe, Norman., Helmholz, R. H. ., Hill QC, Mark., & Witte, J. Jr. (2020). *Christianity and criminal law* (e-book). Routledge,.

Grossio, L. (2025). *Proportionality of criminal penalties in EU law* (e-book). Hart Publishing. <https://search.lib.auth.gr/Record/1170287?sid=50109812>

Heller, K. J., Mégret, F., Nouwen, S. M. H., Ohlin, J. D., & Robinson, D. (Eds.). (2020). *The Oxford handbook of international criminal law* (e-book). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/law/9780198825203.001.0001>

Mitsilegas, V. (2022). The constitutionalisation of European criminal law. Hart Publishing.

~~Mitsilegas, V., Bergström, M., & Konstadinides, T. (2019). Research handbook on EU criminal law. Edward Elgar Publishing.~~

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

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

Smith, S. L. (2024a). *Research handbook on environmental crimes and criminal enforcement* (e-book) Catalog. Edward Elgar.
<https://search.lib.auth.gr/Record/1170284?sid=50109800>

Stahn, C. (2019). Justice as message: Expressivist foundations of international criminal justice. Oxford University Press.

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

- 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