

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Introduction to Criminal Law and Criminology
- **Code:** LLB3
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 1st
- **Teaching Period:** Winter Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

This course provides an integrated introduction to the fundamental principles of criminal law and the study of crime from a legal and criminological perspective. It examines the essential structure of criminal liability, including the concepts of *actus reus*, *mens rea*, causation, and defences, while familiarising students with the classification of offences and the role of punishment in modern legal systems. Alongside the doctrinal aspects of criminal law, the course introduces key criminological theories and methodologies that explain the causes and social dynamics of crime. Greek criminal law is presented as a central case study, with comparative insights from civil law and common law traditions, as well as European and international instruments shaping criminal justice policy. The course aims to cultivate a solid understanding of the normative and social foundations of

criminal law, preparing students for more advanced studies in criminal law and procedure.

3. Keywords

Criminal Responsibility, Offences and Defences, Punishment, Criminological Theories, Comparative Criminal Law

4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Define** core concepts of criminal liability, including conduct, intent, causation, and justification. (*Remembering*)
2. **Explain** the structure and rationale of criminal offences and sanctions across different legal systems. (*Understanding*)
3. **Apply** general principles of criminal law to basic hypothetical scenarios involving offences and defences. (*Applying*)
4. **Compare and contrast** leading criminological theories and their relevance to contemporary criminal policy. (*Analysing*)
5. **Evaluate** the effectiveness of different legal and criminological approaches in addressing crime and social harm. (*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. **The Function of Criminal Law: Norms, Boundaries, and Social Control:** Examining the role of criminal law in society and the limits of penal intervention.
2. **Sources of Criminal Law: Domestic Codes, Comparative Traditions, and Supranational Norms:** An introduction to Greek, continental, and common law sources, including EU and international influences.
3. **The Structure of Criminal Liability: *Actus Reus* and *Mens Rea* in Comparative Perspective:** Analysing conduct, causation, fault, and their legal significance across legal systems.
4. **Justification and Excuse: Defences to Criminal Liability:** Exploring necessity, self-defence, duress, and insanity across jurisdictions.
5. **The Classification of Offences: Crimes against the Person and Property:** Doctrinal analysis of key offence categories using Greek law and comparative examples.
6. **Punishment and Sentencing – Theories and Practices:** Retribution, deterrence, rehabilitation, and the modern challenges of proportionality.
7. **Introduction to Criminology: Definitions, Origins, and Methodologies:** Understanding criminology as a discipline and its relationship with legal doctrine.
8. **Classical and Positivist Schools of Criminological Thought:** From free will to determinism (Cesare Beccaria, Lombroso, and early paradigms).
9. **Sociological and Critical Approaches to Crime:** Theories of anomie, subcultures, labelling, conflict, and power.
10. **White-Collar and Organised Crime – Legal and Criminological Dimensions:** Conceptual and policy challenges in addressing corporate and systemic offending.
11. **Youth, Gender, and Vulnerability in Criminal Justice:** Examining how age, gender, and social status affect criminalisation and victimisation.
12. **Criminal Law in Context: Codification, Legal Culture, and Policy Trends:** Reflecting on Greek criminal law reforms and comparative criminal justice developments.

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
Anagnostopoulos, I. G. ., & Magliveras, K. D. . (2023). *Criminal law in Greece (e-book)*. Wolters Kluwer Law International ; Nomiki Bibliothiki

Banach-Gutierrez, J. B., & Harding, C. (2018). EU criminal law and policy: Values, principles, and methods. Routledge.

The Cambridge Companion to European Criminal Law. (2023). In K. (et. al) Ambos (Ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to European Criminal Law (e-book)*. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108891875>

Herring, J. (2024). *Criminal Law: : Hart Law Masters Jonathan Herring* (14th ed.)(e-book). Bloomsbury . <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/criminal-law-9781350510142/>

Hill, M. Q., Doe, N., Helmholz, R. H., & Witte, J. Jr. (Eds.). (2020). Christianity and criminal law. Taylor & Francis.

Horder, J., & Ashworth, A. (2019). Ashworth's principles of criminal law (9th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Loeber, R., & Welsh, B. (2012). The future of criminology. Oxford University Press.

Maguire, M., Morgan, R., & Reiner, R. (2012). The Oxford handbook of criminology (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.

McLaughlin, E., & Muncie, J. (2013). The Sage dictionary of criminology (3rd ed.). Sage.

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>

Pifferi, M. (2016). *Reinventing punishment: A comparative history of criminology and penology in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (e-book)*. Clarendon Press, Oxford University Press.

Robinson, D. (2020). *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 (e-book)*. Oxford University Press.

Stahn, C. (2019). *A critical introduction to international criminal law*. Cambridge University Press.

Williams, K. S. (2001). *Textbook on criminology (4th ed.)*. 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