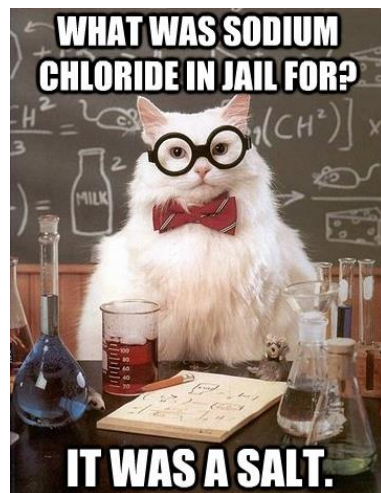


**MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY
CJ 250 WA CRIMINAL LAW**

Summer 2020 – Syllabus

Instructor: Meredith A. M. Pettman, M.A., J.D.
E-mail:



I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Criminal law is an exciting area of the law that each of us has given some consideration to in the past. Most Americans are either victims of criminal acts themselves or know of a friend or family member who has been victimized..... or they have heard about it on the radio or television.

The goal of this course is to help you understand criminal law in the United States. In particular, we will examine various aspects of this law to include the elements of particular offenses. We will explore all the major categories of crime and the criminal prosecution of individual offenders.

II. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & OTHER MATERIALS

- (1) Criminal Law: The Basics, Third Edition by Frank August Schubert ISBN: 978-1454818076
- (2) Other documents that may be posted to Blackboard.

III. CLASS ATTENDANCE, LOCATION, & PARTICIPATION

The class meets online on MBU’s Blackboard platform.

- (1) Attendance
 - a. Students are expected to attend class, participate in class discussions, and complete all assignments given. As this is an online course, it is expected that students actively participate in discussion boards and keep in contact with the professor and classmates.
- (2) Participation
 - a. It is expected that you read all material, be prepared to discuss, and apply the material you have read. Discussion, questions, and the exchange of ideas pertaining to class material are imperative for success in this course. The online format allows for students to engage in discussion via discussion boards and the professor is always available for further discussions or questions.

Important Dates

May 26, 2020 First day of class
August 14, 2020 Final Exam/Last day of class

Course Schedule

Located at the end of this syllabus.

IV. GRADING POLICY & GRADING SCALE

930 – 1000 points	93 – 100%	= A
900 - 929 points	90 – 92.9%	= A -
870 - 899 points	87 – 89.9%	= B +
830 – 869 points	83 – 86.9%	= B
800 - 829 points	80 – 82.9%	= B -

770 - 799 points	77 – 79.9%	= C +
730 – 769 points	73 – 76.9%	= C
700 - 729 points	70 – 72.9%	= C -
680 - 699 points	68 – 69.9%	= D +
630 – 679 points	63 – 67.9%	= D
600 – 629 points	60 – 62.9%	= D -
Below 600 points	0 – 59%	= F

V. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

ALL EXAMS, QUIZZES, ESSAYS, AND POSTS WILL BE COMPLETED ON BLACKBOARD

- (1) Exams – worth 30% of your final grade (*300 points: 100 points per exam*)
 - a. Students will be required to take **THREE** (3) exams during the session.
 - b. If you must miss an exam, then you **MUST** let your instructor know **in advance**. If you do not provide advance notice, your instructor may refuse to allow you to make up the test.
- (2) Quizzes – worth 20% of your final grade (*200 points: 25 points per quiz*)
 - a. There will be eight quizzes that will coincide with each chapter of the textbook.
- (3) Essays – worth 30% of your final grade (*300 points*)
 - a. Students will be required to submit essay at various points during the course. Writing prompts will be posted on Blackboard.
 - b. Essays must be completed by the deadlines listed on the course calendar, unless the professor notifies you otherwise.
 - c. I do not accept late assignments.
- (4) Class Participation – worth 18% of your final grade (*180 points*)
 - a. You can earn one points for your final grade by participating in discussion board posts. Each week, you will complete one original discussion post that must be at least 150 words in length and respond to two posts by your classmates (at least 75 words each), whether that is to their original post or someone else’s responsive post. This makes for a total of three weekly discussion posts.
 - b. Your discussion posts need to properly cite any references you make (citations are not included in word count) and they need to follow proper writing style for an academic setting (i.e., please proofread and edit before you post).
- (5) Syllabus Quiz – worth 2% of your final grade (*20 points*)
- (6) Extra Credit
 - a. The professor may offer various assignments throughout the semester that will count towards extra credit.
 - b. All extra credit, unless otherwise stated, will be due by August 7, 2020 at 11:59 pm.

VI. STUDENT CONDUCT

- (1) Expectations for Conduct
 - a. Respect every individual in the class. Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated.
 - b. Please be advised that I utilize Blackboard in order to post notes and other handouts. You are responsible for reading/printing handouts on Blackboard before class. I will also send e-mails. If you do not regularly check your MBU e-mail, you will want to do so, or make

- arrangements with a classmate. I am NOT able to accommodate the use of outside email addresses. I generally reply to e-mails sent to me within 2 days. If you do not receive a reply from me within 3 days, assume that I did not receive the e-mail and please send again.
- c. Please be respectful in e-mail communication, just as you are respectful in person. For example, an e-mail to a professor could begin with “Dear Ms. Pettman” but never “Hey Meredith.” Unprofessional emails will not receive a response.
 - d. Students are expected to:
 - i. Be prepared for class
 - ii. Participate in class
 - iii. Notify the instructors of any obstacles that may interfere with learning
 - iv. Adhere to college-wide policies regarding prohibited conduct (see student handbook)

(2) Academic Honesty

Scholastic honesty is expected in all of the work in this course. Any dishonesty will not be tolerated. If there is any evidence of academic dishonesty, the student will receive a zero on that assignment and will be reported to the Honor Council.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism and cheating. Students are required to cite the sources they used in preparing their assignments.

Please let me underscore my sincerity; absolute honesty is required: no exceptions, no excuses.

(3) Other Class Expectations

- a. Have FUN!! Law and the discussion of public policy can be a lot of fun. My goal is that we not only learn the material, but also *enjoy* our time together.

(4) Instructional Accommodations

- a. All students will be treated with respect to their individual needs. If you are receiving services related to a disability or medical condition from Accessibility Services, please make an appointment to talk to me privately to review your Request for Accommodation form. Any information about your disability or medical condition we discuss is confidential and will not be shared with anyone. If you feel you need accommodations for a disabling condition, please contact the Accessibility Services Program Coordinator.

VII. COURSE FEEDBACK & COMMUNICATION

Information, announcements, and required readings for the course will be distributed regularly throughout the semester via e-mail or posts on Blackboard.

As in all your classes, you will have a chance to evaluate the course and the instructor at the end of the course. But please do not wait until then if you have any comments, complaints, or suggestions -- especially if they are critical or negative. They will do me (and therefore you) much more good if you share them as the course progresses, anonymously if need be. Your notes will be kept strictly confidential, and will promptly receive whatever reply is appropriate. Your comments and suggestions will be immediately integrated into my ongoing efforts to improve the course and my teaching methods.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

*PLEASE NOTE: All assignment dates and assignments are subject to change.

DATES	WEEK	CLASS DESCRIPTION	ASSIGNMENTS (COMPLETE BY SUNDAY AT 11:59 PM)
5/26 to 6/7	1 & 2	Introduction to the course and Introduction to Criminal Law	Review syllabus; Read Chapter 1; Read Week 1&2 supplements; Complete Syllabus Quiz and End of Chapter Quiz; Complete discussion posts
6/8 to 6/14	3	Constitutional Limitations on the Definition and Punishment of Criminal Offenses	Read Chapter 2; Complete End of Chapter Quiz; Complete Discussion Posts; First Essay Due by 6/14
6/15 to 6/21	4	General Principles of Criminal Liability	Read Chapter 3; Complete Discussion Posts; FIRST EXAM
6/22 to 6/28	5	General Principles of Criminal Liability	Complete Discussion Posts; Complete End of Chapter Quiz
6/29 to 7/5	6	Complicity and Vicarious Liability	Read Chapter 4; Complete Discussion Posts; Complete End of Chapter Quiz
7/6 to 7/12	7	Criminal Defenses	Read Chapter 5; Complete Discussion Posts; Second Essay Due by 7/12
7/13 to 7/19	8	Criminal Defenses	Complete Discussion Posts; Complete End of Chapter Quiz; SECOND EXAM
7/20 to 7/26	9	Crimes Against Persons	Read Chapter 6; Complete Discussion Posts; Complete End of Chapter Quiz
7/27 to 8/2	10	Crimes Against Property and Habitation	Read Chapter 7; Complete Discussion Posts; Complete End of Chapter Quiz
8/3 to 8/9	11	Inchoate Crimes and Derivative Crimes	Read Chapter 8; Complete Discussion Posts; Complete End of Chapter Quiz; Third Essay Due by 8/9
8/10 to 8/14	12	Review and Final Exam	Final Exam