

MODULE: CRIMINOLOGY

Theme	: Public Law
Credit Points	: 5
Pre-Requisites	: Constitutional Law
Co-Requisites	: None

Introduction

The substantive criminal law course is probably the most interesting and exciting subject for the law student. The focus initially is on general principles of criminal liability with an introduction to the criminal justice system and to criminal procedure. This gives the student a context and background against which the second part of the course can be understood, analysed and criticised. At this preliminary stage, emphasis is placed on providing the student with a basic knowledge and understanding of the relevant principles and a wider understanding of the law as a system of rules necessary for the promotion of the common good. The student will progress from this stage with:

- (1) An appreciation of the historical development of the criminal law
- (2) A thorough understanding of the principles of criminal liability.
- (3) The ability to identify the *mens rea* and *actus reus* of a given offence and to explain how and why the *mens rea* of one offence may differ from that required in another offence.
- (4) A full knowledge and understanding of the principles of causation.
- (5) A full knowledge and understanding of the factors which affect criminal liability.
- (6) A basic knowledge of a wide range of offences.
- (7) The ability to analyse and criticise the existing provisions in relation to substantive offences and available defences.

Criminal Law I is concerned with the components outlined above. Criminal Law II builds on this information and understanding and develops students' capacities for critical analysis and practical application, concentrating on specific property and corporate offences in the context of the Irish business world.

Syllabus

- Historical overview of the criminal law
- Purpose of the criminal law
- The basic principles of criminal liability – culpability and harm
- The Irish criminal justice system
- *Actus reus*
- *Mens rea* – Intention, recklessness, negligence
- Strict liability
- Causation
- Complicity
- Inchoate offences
- Offences Against the Person
- Factors affecting Liability
 - Necessary use of force
 - Insanity
 - Automatism
 - Intoxication
 - Duress
 - Duress of circumstances
 - Infancy

Mistake
Consent