



# Criminal Law in Action

**CCJS 230**  
**Fall 2018**

## Learning Outcomes

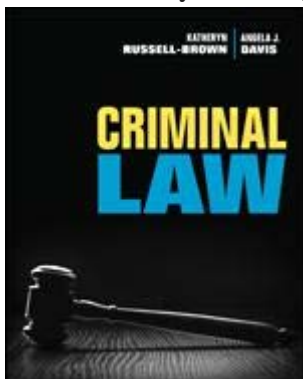
The goal of this course is to expand every student's idea of criminal law by providing an overview and framework for substantive criminal law in the United States. We will discuss how the Constitution places limits on what behaviors the state and the federal government can designate as crimes. We will identify and consider the differences between manslaughter and murder, robbery and burglary, and self-defense and duress. We will learn the elements of different crimes and we will analyze the different justifications and excuses that may be asserted by defendants. We will consider the changes and advances in federal, state and local laws in the last few decades.

After successfully completing this course you will be able to:

- Understand the general principles and common themes of criminal law that run throughout the states and the federal system.
- Create case briefs by dissecting Appellate Court Opinions.
- Apply relevant Court decisions to our everyday lives.
- Comprehend the crucial role of criminal law in our comprehensive legal system.

## Required Resources

Student Study Site: [edge.sagepub.com/russellbrown](http://edge.sagepub.com/russellbrown)



Russell-Brown, Kathryn and Davis, Angela J. Criminal Law, Sage. 2016.  
ISBN 978-1-4129-7789-0

**Prof. White**

[ccjs230umd@gmail.com](mailto:ccjs230umd@gmail.com)

### Class Meets

MWF

10:00am – 10:50am

SQH 1120

### Office Hours

2215 LeFrak Hall

Tuesdays

9:00 pm -10:30 am

and by appointment

### Teaching Assistants

Heather DeMocker

Katelyn Stolarczyk

### Prerequisites

CCJS 100

### Course Communication

We will use ELMS in this course for posting grades, class announcements and class discussions.

[www.elms.edu](http://www.elms.edu) After assignments are due and exams are given, grades will be posted on ELMS in a reasonable period of time.

Please contact me via the email address listed at the top of this page.

*Please consult this link for helpful guidance on writing professional emails*  
([ter.ps/email](http://ter.ps/email)).

## Campus Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit [www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html](http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html) for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

## Activities, Learning Assessments, & Expectations for Students

### *STATEMENT ON CLASSROOM CLIMATE*

The success of this class is dependent not only on my abilities and talents as an instructor to communicate information and ideas, but also on our ability as a class to work together to create an environment conducive to active learning. As a department and university, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students of opportunities to learn. The University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as "behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class." Examples include coming late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, excessive talking, persisting in speaking without being recognized, allowing cell phones to ring, talking on a cell phone, reading text messages, sending text messages, or using a cell phone or any other electronic device. None of this behavior will be tolerated.

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants or with me will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

### *ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES*

Regular and consistent attendance in this class is expected from registered students. University policy excuses the absences of students for illness, religious observances, participation in University activities at the request of University authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond the student's control. Students must submit the request in writing and supply appropriate documentation.

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent for a Major Student Grading event, due to illness/injury, to furnish documentary support to the instructor. I require students to contact me by email or by phone prior to class time in which you indicate that you have an illness or an injury. You must provide written documentation of the illness from the Health Center or an outside health care provider verifying the dates of treatment and the time period during which the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. This documentation must be provided immediately upon your return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests or papers if you have not provided this documentation. Documentation not presented to me in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University's Student Conduct Office.

If a student has missed a **single** lecture, Campus Senate policy allows that I accept as an excused absence a self-signed note from the student. The note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under Code of Student

Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness in advance. A self-signed note will not apply to missing a major Scheduled Grading Event.

### ***ASSIGNMENTS***

1. Reading Assignments: Each student is responsible for reading assignments as outlined below and being fully prepared to participate in classroom discussions. Most of the assigned reading for this course will consist of court cases. We will examine the application of criminal law by analyzing United States Supreme Court opinions and State Court opinions. You will be expected to brief the assigned cases for this course. Students should bring their textbook to each class.
  
2. Participation: Each student will be responsible for knowing the information contained in the brief for each of the assigned cases. Students will be called upon at random every class period to tell the professor and fellow classmates the contents of their brief. Each student will be called upon at least once during the semester. Being present **and prepared** when asked to brief a case, gives the student an opportunity to earn full points for the participation portion of their grade. If a student is unprepared when called upon, the student is allowed “one free pass.” The student will then be called upon in a future class. If the student is unprepared again or absent, the student will receive a zero for participation unless the student is able to voluntarily brief a case in class. If a student is absent when called upon, I will call on the student in a subsequent class (**not necessarily the next class**) and the student should be prepared at that time. If the student is not prepared at that time, the student will receive a zero for attendance & participation.
  
3. Exams: Three multiple-choice exams will be given based on material from the TEXT as well as from LECTURES. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** will be given unless a **legitimate and documented** excuse plus notification to me prior to the exam are given, and the exam must be made up within one week of the missed examination.
  
4. Case briefs: Case briefs will be assigned and due on dates announced by the Professor in class. While all cases should be briefed to maximize the possibility for understanding and analyzing case law, several case briefs will be collected. (A separate document will be provided with the details of these assignments.)
  
5. Court Observation Report: Students must attend a criminal matter in a local court and write a detailed report based on the requirements described in a separate document that will be distributed at a later date.

## Course-Specific Policies

### *USE OF TECHNOLOGY*

**No computers, phones or tablet devices are permitted during our class meetings.** I understand and have considered arguments for permitting laptop and tablet computers in the classroom. However, in my experience (and based on the research evidence) the reality is that they present an irresistible distraction and detract from the cooperative learning environment. Researchers have found that these distractions do in fact interfere with learning and active participation. For that reason, the use of computers and phones will not be permitted during class meetings (except when required for DSS accommodations). If a computer is needed to accomplish a class objective for the day I will provide it or give you advanced notice to bring one with you.

I expect you to make the responsible and respectful decision to refrain from using your cellphone in class. If you have critical communication to attend to, please excuse yourself and return when you are ready. For more information about the science behind the policy watch: <http://youtu.be/WwPaw3Fx5Hk>

If these devices are seen and/or used during class, the student(s) will be asked to leave the class immediately. If these devices are seen and/or used during an exam, the exam will be collected from the student and the student will no longer be allowed to continue taking the exam. The exam score will be noted as 0.

*Exception: Students will be allowed to use electronic devices (like tablets) to access the e-version of the textbook. However, if at any time the professor learns that students are using the device for other reasons, the students will no longer be permitted to access this device for the remainder of the semester.*

### *LATE SUBMISSIONS*

This class begins at 10:00 am and ends at 10:50 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. When papers are due in class, students are to be present to turn in their assignments at the class start time unless the papers are to be submitted via ELMS. **Once I begin teaching class, I will not accept any papers now will any papers be accepted via ELMS.**

We will have three exams on designated dates. **Once the first student has turned in the exam, no other student will be allowed to take the exam**

If an excused absence, with legitimate documentation, supports a late submission, the student must contact Prof. White immediately (as soon as it is clear that the assignment will be late) to discuss an extension.

### ***Turnitin***

For this course, some of your assignments will be collected via Turnitin on our course ELMS page. I have chosen to use this tool because it can help you improve your scholarly writing and help me verify the integrity of student work. For information about Turnitin, how it works, and the feedback reports you may have access to, visit [Turnitin Originality Checker for Students](#)

### ***ATHLETES***

Any student participating in a school sponsored athletic program must provide a copy of their athletic calendar outlining dates when they will miss classes to the instructor by **September 7, 2018**.

### ***RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES***

While the University does excuse absences for religious observances, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance and prior notification is especially important in connection with final examinations, since failure to reschedule a final examination before the conclusion of the final examination period may result in loss of credits during the semester. Therefore, by **September 7, 2018** students must provide me in writing a request for a make-up exam if I have indicated a date on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance on a specific date. Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance. *Please remember that accommodations are NOT made for travel to and from the religious observance.*

### ***STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES***

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Services (ADS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form, which has been updated for the Fall 2018 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than **September 7<sup>th</sup>**. **I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation which has been reviewed by ADS after September 7, 2018.**

### **Get Some Help!**

You are expected to take personal responsibility for your own learning. This includes acknowledging when your performance does not match your goals and doing something about it. Everyone can benefit from some expert guidance on time management, note taking, and exam preparation, so I encourage you to consider visiting <http://ter.ps/learn> and schedule an appointment with an academic coach. Sharpen your communication skills (and improve your



grade) by visiting <http://ter.ps/writing> and schedule an appointment with the campus Writing Center. Finally, if you just need someone to talk to, visit <http://www.counseling.umd.edu>.

Everything is free because you have already paid for it, and **everyone needs help**... all you have to do is ask for it.

## Grades

Grades are not given, but earned. Your grade is determined by your performance on the learning assessments in the course and is assigned individually (not curved). If earning a particular grade is important to you, please speak with me at the beginning of the semester so that I can offer some helpful suggestions for achieving your goal.

All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page. If you would like to review any of your grades (including the exams), or have questions about how something was scored, please email me to schedule a time for us to meet in my office.

Late work will not be accepted for course credit so please plan to have it submitted well before the scheduled deadline. I am happy to discuss any of your grades with you, and if I have made a mistake I will immediately correct it. Any formal grade disputes must be submitted in writing and within one week of receiving the grade.

Exam 1	=	20%
Exam 2	=	20%
Exam 3	=	20%
Case Briefs	=	15%
Court Visit Report	=	15%
Participation	=	10%

Final letter grades are assigned based on the percentage of total assessment points earned. To be fair to everyone I have to establish clear standards and apply them consistently, so please understand that being close to a cutoff is not the same this as making the cut (89.99  $\neq$  90.00). It would be unethical to make exceptions for some and not others.

Final Grade Cutoffs							
+	97.00%	+	87.00%	+	77.00%	+	67.00%
A	94.00%	B	84.00%	C	74.00%	D	64.00%
F	<60.0%						
-	90.00%	-	80.00%	-	70.00%	-	60.00%

## Course Schedule

**Note:** This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course ELMS page for current deadlines. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.

Week 1	Introduction and Overview of the Course	
8/27-8/31	Criminal Law and Criminal Punishment	Chapter 1
Week 2	Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law	Chapter 2
9/3-9/7		
<b>9/3</b>	<b>Labor Day - No Classes</b>	
Week 3	The Elements of a Crime	Chapter 3
9/10-9/14		
Week 4	Incomplete Crimes	Chapter 4
9/17-9/21		
Week 5	Incomplete Crimes	Chapter 4
9/24-9/28	Theft and Other Property Crimes	Chapter 5
<b>9/28</b>	<b>Exam 1 Chapters 1-4</b>	
Week 6	Public Order Crimes and Offenses Against	Chapter 6
10/1-10/5	Public Decency	
	Rape and Other Violent Crimes	Chapter 7
Week 7	Rape and Other Violent Crimes	Chapter 7
10/8-10/12	Criminal Homicide	Chapter 8



Week 8	Criminal Homicide	Chapter 8
10/15-10/19	In-class movie: A Time To Kill	
Week 9	Justification Defenses	Chapter 9
10/22-10/26		
10/26	<b>Exam 2 Chapters 5-8</b>	
Week 10	Justification Defenses	Chapter 9
10/29-11/2		
Week 11	Excuse Defenses	Chapter 10
11/5-11/9		
Week 12	Excuse Defenses	Chapter 10
11/12-11/16		
Week 13	Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 11
11/19-11/23		
Week 14	Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 11
11/26-11/30		
<b>11/26</b>	<b>Court Observation Report Due</b>	
<b>11/27-11/30</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>	

Week 15	State-Involved Crimes	Chapter 12
---------	-----------------------	------------

12/3-12/7

Week 16	Final Review
---------	--------------

12/10

<b>Final</b>	<b>Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> @ 8am</b>
--------------	---