

CRJS 3719 - Criminal Law

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 30565,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Christopher Bellas

Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D. Political Science, Kent State University

M.A. Political Science, Kent State University

M.S. Criminal Justice, Youngstown State University

B.A. Political Science, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

A.S. Business Administration, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Post Baccalaureate Certificate Paralegal Studies, Kent State University (Approved by the American Bar Association; 30 semester hours of law courses)

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Communication Expectations:

When corresponding with Dr. Bellas professional emails are required. Please visit this website on how to write professional emails to your professors as all these components are required as well as identifying: the name of the course you are in and whether it is in person or online. <https://www.purdue.edu/advisors/students/professor.php>

How to Refer to me:

Dr. Bellas

Course Description

3719. Criminal Law. Development, theories, and purposes of criminal law; elements of a crime, parties to a crime. Prereq.: CRJS 2602. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Criminal Law	Garnder & Anderson	9780357935491

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
6/29	Chapter 1 Criminal Law: Purposes, Scope, and Resources Chapter 9 Free Speech, Public Order Crimes & Bill of Rights	The First Amendment (Free Speech v. Criminal Conduct)	Discussion post and Quiz over Chapters 1 and 9



7/6	Chapter 3 Essential Elements of a Crime Chapter 4 Criminal Liability	Elements of a crime and criminal liability	assignment applying elements of a crime to a current case in the media quiz over chapters 3 and 4
7/13	Chapter 11 Assault, Battery, and other Crimes Against the Person Chapter 12 Sexual Assault, Rape, Prostitution, and Related Sex Crimes	Crimes against a person	Assignment on Rape Shield Laws Quiz over chapters 11 and 12
7/20	Chapter 13 Theft Robbery, Burglary and Related Crimes	property crimes	quiz chapter 13 and 14
7/27	Chapter 8 Criminal Punishments Chapter 10 Homicide	different degrees of murder and the death penalty as the ultimate sentence	quiz over chapter 8 and 10
8/3	Chapter 6 The Law Governing the Use of Force Chapter 7 Other Defenses to Crime	discussion of use of force by the government and citizen against citizen Affirmative Defenses	case study assignment (Trayvon Martin) quiz over chapter 6 and 7
8/10	Chapter 5 Criminal Responsibility and the Capacity to Commit a Crime Chapter 16 Drug/Alcohol Related Crimes	Whether one has the mental capacity to commit a Crime	quiz over chapters 5 and 6

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.