

Course Outline

Course number	RBE253					
Course title	Criminal Law					
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 CP)					
Total hours	30					
Lecture hours	20					
Seminar and other hours	10					
Course level	Bachelor					
Prerequisites	None					
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	X	Free elective	

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Andrejs Judins	PhD	Visiting Professor

COURSE ABSTRACT

The study course provides an outline of the concept and general principles of substantive Criminal law, punishment and the core offence categories defined by law. This course introduces students to the objectives for Criminal law and criminal punishment, basic elements of criminal offence, national criminal sanctions' system, as well explains the meaning of completed and uncompleted offence, participation in crime, justification and excuses, release from criminal liability, corporate criminal liability and other related legal concepts and provisions.

The course mostly focused on Latvian system of criminal law; however other foreign legal provisions and legal doctrines are also examined during the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is designed to acquaint students with general concepts of Criminal law and Latvian's national system of criminal law. The study facilitates understanding of legal provisions, defined by the Criminal code and prepares students for Comparative Criminal Law study.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Exam	50%
Course paper	25%
Quick tests	25%

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	Criminal law: objectives and characteristics. Principles of criminal law. National legal system of Criminal law. Application of Criminal Law. Criminal Offence. <i>Corpuse delicti</i>	8
2	Completed and uncompleted criminal offences. Participation in crime and joint participation in crime. Justification and excuse	4
3	Punishment. Theories of punishment. Criminal sanctions' system. Sentencing. Release from criminal liability and punishment	6
4	Criminal liability of juveniles. Compulsory measures of a medical nature for mentally incapable person. Criminal liability for legal person.	2
5	Special part of Criminal law: Criminal offence against person. Criminal offences against property. Criminal offences of an economic nature. Drug offences	10

COURSE PLAN – SESSIONS

Session	Session subjects and readings	Lecture/seminar
1	Definition and concept of the substantive Criminal law. Basic principles of substantive Criminal Law. National system of the Criminal law. Sources of Criminal law and Hierarchy of Norms. General and Special part of criminal law.	Lecture
2	Application of the Criminal law. Jurisdiction in criminal case. Immunity from criminal liability. Operation of the criminal law in time.	Lecture
3	Concept of Criminal offence. Criminal offences' Characteristics and classification of Criminal offence. Concept of <i>Corpus delicti</i> . External elements of criminal offence (<i>Actus reus</i>). Object of crime. Act and Omission. Causation. Consequences. Result criminal offence and Conduct criminal offence. Optional (facultative) circumstances.	Lecture/Seminar
4	Subject of criminal liability. Age of criminal responsibility. Mental capacity. Diminished mental capacity. Special subject of criminal responsibility. Mental elements of criminal offence (<i>Mens rea</i>) Intent and Negligence. Motive. Objective (aim). Mistake of fact and mistake of law.	Lecture/Seminar
5	Completed and uncompleted criminal offences. Preparation for crime. Attempt. Impossible attempt. Voluntary withdrawal from the commission of a criminal offence. Participation in crime and joint participation in crime. Perpetrator of a criminal offence. Organiser. Instigator. Accessory. Organised criminal group. Previously unpromised concealment. Failure to inform.	Lecture
6	Circumstances which exclude criminal liability (Justification and excuses). Self-defence. Necessity. Arrest causing personal harm. Justifiable professional risk. Consent. Apparent justification and excuses. Separate (unitary) criminal offence and multiplicity of criminal offences. Aggregate of crimes. Repetition of crime. Recidivism (relapse) of criminal offence	Lecture/Seminar
7	Punishment. Theories of punishment. Purposes for punishment. Criminal sanctions' system. Principal punishments and additional punishments. Deprivation of liberty. Community service. Fine. Confiscation of property. Limitation of rights. Probation supervision.	Lecture/Seminar
8	Sentencing. General principles of determination of punishment. Mitigating and aggravating circumstances. Determination of punishment for several criminal offences. Determination of punishment after several judgments.	Lecture
9	Conditional sentence. Release from criminal liability and sentence. <i>De minimis</i> . Reconciliation. Substantial assistance in the uncovering/investigating of a serious or especially serious crime.	Lecture/Seminar

Session	Session subjects and readings	Lecture/seminar
	Pardon/Clemency. Amnesty. Criminal liability limitation period. Limitation period on the execution of a judgment of Conviction. Parole (Condition release prior to completion of sentence). Cancellation and removal of criminal record.	
10	Criminal liability of juveniles. Compulsory measures of a correctional nature to minors. Compulsory measures of a medical nature for mentally incapable person. Criminal liability for legal person (corporate criminal liability).	Lecture
11	Criminal offences against person. Homicide (Murder, Manslaughter, Infanticide). Abortion offence. Non-Fatal offences against person (Common assault, Battery, Bodily harm). Harassment. Sexual offences (Rape, Indecent offence).	Lecture/Seminar
12	Criminal offences against property (Theft; Robbery; Burglary; Fraud; Misappropriation; Blackmail/ Extortion; Destroying or damaging property)	Lecture/Seminar
13	Criminal offences against fundamental rights and freedoms of a person. Criminal offences against personal liberty, honour and dignity. Crimes against humanity and peace, war crimes and Genocide. Crimes against the State.	Lecture/Seminar
14	Criminal offences of an economic nature (Smuggling; Money laundering; Tax evasion; Copyright infringement). Criminal offences committed in state authority service (Exceeding official authority; Bribery; Trading with Influence).	Lecture/Seminar
15	Drug offences (Possession of controlled drugs; Supply of controlled drugs; Production of controlled drugs; Cultivation of plants containing narcotic substances; Consumption of controlled drugs). Criminal offences against traffic safety. Criminal offences against the environment.	Lecture/Seminar

COURSE LITERATURE

No.	Author, title, publisher
1	Ashworth A. Principles of Criminal Law: Oxford University Press, 2006
2	Bohlander M. Principles of German Criminal law: Hart Publishing, 2009
3	Dobson P. Criminal law in a Nutshell; Sweet & Maxwell, 1999
4	Dubber M. Criminal law : a comparative approach: Oxford University Press, 2014
5	Gallant K. The principle of legality in international and comparative criminal: Cambridge University Press, 2009
6	Keiler, J., Actus reus and participation in European criminal law, Intersentia , 2013.
7	O'Keefe R. International criminal law: Oxford University Press, 2015.
8	Simester A. Criminal law : Theory and doctrine: Hart Publishing, 2000.
9	The handbook of comparative criminal law / ed. by Kevin Jon Heller, Markus D. Dubber: Stanford Law Books, 2011.
10	Tonry M. Thinking about punishment : penal policy across space, time, and discipline: Ashgate, 2009
11	An introduction to international criminal law and procedure / Robert Cryer, Håkan Friman, Darryl Robinson, Elizabeth Wilmshurst : Cambridge University Press, 2014
12	The Criminal Law (Latvian Criminal code) http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/The_Criminal_Law.doc
13	Course compendium with additional materials