

Course Outline for Criminal Law (Bachelor of Laws) – Uganda

Course Title: Criminal Law

Course Code: LAW 2101

Year of Study: Year 2, Semester 1

Credit Units: 4

Course Duration: 45 Hours (Lectures: 30 Hours, Tutorials: 15 Hours)

Course Description

This course provides an in-depth examination of the general principles of criminal law, focusing on Ugandan law while integrating comparative perspectives from other jurisdictions. Students will engage with key concepts such as crime definitions, criminal liability, defenses, and specific offenses under Ugandan law, along with procedural and substantive aspects of criminal justice.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the foundations and development of criminal law in Uganda.
 2. Identify and analyze the elements of crime and criminal liability.
 3. Evaluate the various defenses available in criminal cases.
 4. Understand the classification of offenses under Ugandan law.
 5. Apply criminal law principles to hypothetical and real-life legal scenarios.
 6. Critically engage with debates and reforms in criminal law.
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Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the structure of Ugandan criminal law.
- Apply legal reasoning to criminal cases involving specific and general offenses.
- Critically analyze judicial decisions and statutory provisions relating to criminal law.
- Develop arguments regarding criminal liability and defenses.

- Analyze comparative criminal law in the context of East Africa.
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Course Content

Week 1: Introduction to Criminal Law

- Definition of Crime and Criminal Law.
- Purpose and Function of Criminal Law.
- Sources of Criminal Law in Uganda.
- Criminal Law vs. Civil Law.

Reading:

- Uganda Penal Code Act, Cap 120 (Sections 1-10).
- Glanville Williams, *Textbook of Criminal Law*, Chapter 1.

Week 2: Elements of a Crime

- Actus Reus (The Physical Act)
 - Conduct, Consequences, and Circumstances.
- Mens Rea (The Mental Element)
 - Intention, Recklessness, and Negligence.
- Causation and Liability.

Reading:

- Penal Code Act, Cap 120, Sections 20-40.
- R v. Smith (1959), Case Study.

Week 3: Parties to a Crime

- Principal Offenders.
- Secondary Participants (Aiders, Abettors, and Accessories).
- Joint Criminal Enterprise and Common Intention.

Reading:

- Penal Code Act, Sections 19-25.
- Case: *R v. Powell* [1997] 4 All ER 545.

Week 4: Inchoate Offenses

- Attempt.
- Conspiracy.
- Incitement.

Reading:

- Penal Code Act, Sections 380-383.
- *R v. Shivpuri* [1986] 2 All ER 334 (UK).

Week 5: General Defenses to Criminal Liability (Part 1)

- Insanity (The M'Naghten Rules).
- Intoxication.
- Infancy.

Reading:

- Penal Code Act, Sections 11-14.
- Case: *R v. Sullivan* [1984] AC 156.

Week 6: General Defenses to Criminal Liability (Part 2)

- Self-Defense.
- Provocation.
- Duress and Necessity.

Reading:

- Penal Code Act, Sections 15-19.
- Case: *R v. Howe* [1987] AC 417.

Week 7: Homicide

- Murder.
- Manslaughter.
- Culpable Homicide.
- Defenses to Homicide.

Reading:

- Penal Code Act, Sections 188-199.
- Case: *Woolmington v. DPP* [1935] AC 462.

Week 8: Offenses Against the Person

- Assault and Battery.
- Sexual Offenses (Rape, Defilement).
- Kidnapping and Abduction.

Reading:

- Penal Code Act, Sections 123-139, 126-130.
- Case: *R v. Olugboja* [1982] QB 320.

Week 9: Property Offenses

- Theft.
- Robbery.
- Burglary and Housebreaking.
- Criminal Damage.

Reading:

- Penal Code Act, Sections 254-271.
- Case: *R v. Hinks* [2001] 2 AC 241.

Week 10: Offenses Against the State

- Treason and Sedition.
- Terrorism.
- Public Order Offenses.

Reading:

- Penal Code Act, Sections 23-45, 66-67.
- Case: *Uganda v. Joseph Kony & Others*.

Week 11: Sentencing and Punishment

- Principles of Sentencing.
- Types of Sentences (Imprisonment, Fines, Death Penalty).

- Rehabilitation and Punishment in Uganda.

Reading:

- Penal Code Act, Section 22.
- Uganda's Prisons Act, Cap 304.

Week 12: Review and Reform in Criminal Law

- Current Debates in Criminal Law.
- Proposed Reforms in Uganda.
- Human Rights and Criminal Law.

Reading:

- Uganda Law Reform Commission Report (2022).
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Teaching Methodology

- **Lectures:** Theoretical foundations and case analysis.
 - **Tutorials:** Group discussions, case studies, and problem-solving exercises.
 - **Moot Court Sessions:** Practical exposure to criminal litigation.
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Assessment Methods

- **Coursework:** (30%)
 - Class participation.
 - Written assignments or research papers.
 - Mid-term test.
 - **Final Examination:** (70%)
 - Written exam covering theoretical concepts and problem-solving based on case law.
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Recommended Reading

1. **Uganda Penal Code Act**, Cap 120.

2. Glanville Williams, *Textbook of Criminal Law* (4th ed., 2015).
 3. Andrew Ashworth, *Principles of Criminal Law* (9th ed., 2020).
 4. Simester & Sullivan, *Criminal Law: Theory and Doctrine* (5th ed., 2013).
 5. Uganda Law Reform Commission Reports and other relevant statutory materials.
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Additional Resources

- Case judgments from Ugandan courts and the East African Court of Justice.
- Criminal Law journals and articles

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