

Law of Self Defense: Criminal Law

Preliminary Syllabus

Class runs weekly from July – September 2018.

Week Content

- 1 Criminal Law: Sources & Limitations**
Common law, Legislative law and Case law (court made law).
Limitations on ex post facto laws, the rule of lenity, and laws void for vagueness.
- 2 Actus Reus (“Criminal Act”) & Mens Rea (“Criminal Intent”)**
In terms of *actus reus*: voluntary acts, omissions of legal duty, mere possession.
In terms of *mens rea*: Intent, knowledge, recklessness, negligence.
- 3 Burdens of Proof, Standards of Evidence, Presumptions & Inferences**
Burdens of production & persuasion, prima facie, preponderance of the evidence, clear & convincing evidence, beyond a reasonable doubt.
- 4 Doctrines of Mistake, Strict & Vicarious Liability & Causation**
Mistakes of fact, mistakes of law, strict liability, vicarious liability, causation.
- 5 Doctrines of Homicide**
Murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter.
- 6 Doctrines of Attempt, Complicity & Conspiracy**
Intent required for attempt, complicity in crime, crime of conspiracy.
- 7 Defenses: Excuse v. Justification**
- 8 Defenses: Self-defense & Defense of Others**
- 9 Defenses: Protection of Property & Habitation**
- 10 Defenses: Necessity, Duress & Accident**
- 11 Defenses: Insanity & Intoxication**
- 12 Pre-Final Exam Q&A (Optional)**