



**COURSE NAME : INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL LAW**

**COURSE CODE : I Cr. L 3004**

**COURSE CREDIT: 3**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides an introduction to the basic principles which inform the substantive law of Crime. There is some particularity in relation to specific offences such as murder, unlawful killing/manslaughter, larceny, robbery, burglary, drug and sexual offences.

**AIM:**

This course aims to:

- Develop an understanding of the principles that underpin criminal law.
- Develop an understanding of the key elements of a crime.
- Examine particular offences in order to appreciate the elements required to establish them and to successfully defend them.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students will be able to:

- Appreciate the general nature and functions of criminal law in society.
- Understand the general principles of law that apply to all criminal offences.
- Learn about certain specific offences and what is required to prove and defend against them.
- Learn about the principle of strict liability in crime.
- Learn about accomplices and the principle of vicarious liability in crime.
- Learn the general defences to crimes.
- Learn about inchoate offences (attempts, conspiracies and incitements) and the special challenges related to these.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

1. Crime and punishment in society, nature and purposes.
2. Defining crime.
3. General elements: actus reus and mens rea (the question of negligence).
4. Strict liability.
5. Parties to crime (including accomplices and vicarious liability).
6. General defences.
7. Special defences (insanity, automatism, intoxication, mistake etc.).
8. Inchoate crimes.
9. Specific offences: murder, unlawful killing/manslaughter, larceny, robbery, burglary, drug and sexual offences.



## ST ANDREWS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (SATC)

### COURSE TEXTS:

Ormerod, D. (2008). *Smith and Hogan criminal law*. (12<sup>th</sup> ed.). NY: Oxford University Press

Ormerod, D. (2009). *Smith and Hogan criminal law: Cases and materials*. (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). NY: Oxford University Press.

Supplementary articles and legislation will be required reading.

### TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Lectures

Peer review

Debates

Group Work

Discussion

### COURSE ASSESSMENT:

Peer Review	5%
Class Participation	10%
Class Presentation	20%
Course Assignments (written)	30%
Research Paper	35%
TOTAL	100%

- Class attendance.
  - Completion of assigned readings on schedule.
  - Participation in class discussions, with demonstrated critical understanding.
  - Facilitation of oral and written class discussions/presentations.
  - Completion of written assignments on schedule.
  - Court attendance: magistrates court and assizes, with written reports. [This will constitute one of the written assignments.]
1. Constructive participation in class discussions (10%). Students will be expected to demonstrate active listening skills and to engage in constructive dialogue on all topics.
  2. Assigned in-class presentation (20%). Presentation of oral arguments and supporting evidence for assigned topics, together with counter arguments for opposing views.
  3. Peer reviewed facilitation of class discussions (5%).
  4. Written course assignments (3x10% = 30%). There will be three (3) written course assignments, each 2-3 pages (typed, double-spaced).
  5. Final essay (35%). On a topic to be agreed with the course director. A 10-12 page (typed, double spaced) paper with endnotes and bibliography.