



Law School

for teens

Criminal Law, Part 1

What We Will Learn

- We will learn about how criminal law is handled by lawyers, and we will learn to think along the way.
- With the need to prove elements of a crime *beyond a reasonable doubt*, we will make a claim that a criminal is guilty of a crime, then prove that claim with evidence taken from fact patterns (story problems) to prove that guilt.
- What you will notice as you progress through these classes is an increased ability to think through problems

Schedule (subject to change based on the pacing of the class):

Week 1: How to Write a Law

- Exposure to how a law is written and the difficulty in shaping words into a law that will be effective and practical.

Week 2: What Does it Mean to be Free?

- Deepening our understanding of a key concept that underlies every law in our society.

Week 3: Basic Elements of a Crime: *Actus Reus*

- Most laws are made up of four general characteristics, and this is the first: a voluntary action.

Week 4: Basic Elements of a Crime: *Crimes of Omission*

- What about crimes where someone fails to act? When can we prosecute in those situations?

Week 5: Basic Elements of a Crime: *Mens Rea*

- What does the alleged criminal have to be thinking when they commit a crime? This is about the criminal mental state.

Week 6: Basic Elements of a Crime: *Concurrence and Causation*

- When the voluntary action and the mental state come together to create a harm, that completes the crime.



Week 7: Inchoate Crimes: Conspiracy/Solicitation/Attempt

- Some crimes are considered *inchoate*, which means incomplete. This is our first exposure to elements of a crime and how we

Week 8: Practice Problems

- Applying our knowledge in several situations will help our understanding of the topic.

Week 9: Test

- The practice of retrieving information from our memory helps us deepen our understanding of the topic, which is why we will have a test on the knowledge we have learned so far.
- This test is created to remember terms as well as practice thinking like a lawyer.

Week 10: Homicide – 1st Degree Murder

- What is homicide? How is murder different from manslaughter? We begin our exploration of the topic here.

Week 11: 2nd Degree Murder

- How is 2nd Degree Murder different from 1st Degree Murder?

Week 12: Felony Murder

- What is this controversial law all about, and how does it fit into the different levels of murder?

Week 13: Voluntary Manslaughter

- A crime that considers human emotion, and how emotions can make us do terrible things...

Week 14: Involuntary Manslaughter/Assault and Battery/Kidnapping

- Three crimes

Week 15: Practice Problems

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Week 16: Test



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After the Final Test: Certificate of Completion

