

## Criminal Law

Module Status:  Mandatory  Elective

Credit Rating:  7  Credit Level:

<b>Pre-requisite Modules:</b>	<b>Co-requisite Modules:</b>
Modules 1-4	
<b>Total Contact Hours:</b>	
Lecture: 24 hours	Independent Study: 116hours
<b>Total Student Effort: 140 hours</b>	

### Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Provide students with an understanding of the nature of a crime, both in social and strict legal terms.
- Provide the student with an understanding of the elements of a crime.
- Familiarise students with a number of specific offences, most especially offences against the person, offences against property, public order offences and inchoate offences.
- Acquaint students with possible defences to criminal charges.
- Outline the main categories of crimes by corporate bodies.
- Enable students to apply criminal law theory to different factual situations.

## Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Critically discuss the nature of criminality.
- Identify and assess the central elements of a crime.
- Identify, describe and evaluate the different types of criminal offence.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the defences available to a criminal offence.
- Discuss the main categories of crimes by corporate bodies.
- Apply the law regarding criminal offences and the defences to such charges to different factual situations.

## Indicative Module Content

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
<b>Introduction to Criminal Law</b>	The nature of a crime; the sources of criminal law; the purpose of criminal law.
<b>The Elements of a Crime</b>	<i>Actus reus; mens rea</i> ; the coincidence of <i>actus reus</i> and <i>mens rea</i> .
<b>Complicity</b>	Doctrine of innocent agency; doctrine of common design; accessorial criminal liability.
<b>Offences against the Person</b>	Homicide; assault offences; sexual offences.
<b>Offences against Property</b>	Theft; burglary; aggravated burglary; robbery; criminal damage.
<b>Public Order Offences</b>	Intoxication in a public place; offensive conduct in a public place; threatening abusive or insulting behaviour in a public place; obscene displays in a public place; affray; violent disorder; riot.
<b>Inchoate Offences</b>	Incitement; conspiracy; attempt.
<b>Defences</b>	Lawful use of force; intoxication; insanity; automatism; duress; necessity; infancy; mistake.

<b>Corporate Crime</b>	Reckless and fraudulent trading; role and powers of Director of Corporate Enforcement; criminal sanctions; registration and non-registration offences; money laundering; role and powers of Criminal Assets Bureau; corporate manslaughter.
----------------------------	---

### **Teaching / Learning Methodology**

This module will be delivered through a series of lectures, tutorial-style discussions, group work sessions and exercises, and supplemented by structured web-based resources and reading.

### **Assessment**

Theoretical knowledge will be assessed at the end of the module by examination (100%). The examination will consist of a mixture of descriptive, analytical and application questions, taking the form of essay style questions, which place emphasis on the students' demonstrating analytical skills; and problem style questions, which assess the student's ability to apply the law to practical factual scenarios.

### **Required Reading**

Griffith College Manual, *Criminal Law*, (Dublin: Clarus Press, updated annually)

### **Secondary Reading**

Charleton, Peter (1993) *Criminal Law: Cases and Materials*, Butterworths

Charleton, Peter, PA McDermott, and Marguerite Bolger (1999) *Criminal Law*, Butterworths

Clarkson, CMV and HM Keating (1998) *Criminal Law: Text and Materials*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Sweet & Maxwell

Goldberg, David (2002) *Consolidated Criminal Legislation*, Round Hall

Hanly, Conor (1999) *An Introduction to Irish Criminal Law*, Sweet & Maxwell

McAuley, F. and P. McCutcheon (2000) *Criminal Liability*, Butterworths

McIntyre, TJ and Sinead McMullen (2001) *Criminal Law – Essential Text*, Round Hall

O'Mahony, Paul (2002) *Criminal Justice in Ireland*, Institute of Public Administration

O'Malley, Thomas (1996) *Sexual Offences: Law, Policy and Punishment*, Sweet & Maxwell

Smith, John and Brian Hogan (2006) *Criminal Law*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, Butterworths