

Initial Assignments for Professor Parker's CRIMINAL LAW (Law 106, § 3), Spring 2009

Course Materials and TWEN site. The required casebook for this course is Kadish, Shulhofer, & Steiker, *Criminal Law and its Processes* (8th ed. 2007: Aspen) (ISBN 0-7355-5794-2) (cited below as "CB"). Additional required and optional materials will be posted to the course's TWEN site. For this reason among others, registration at the TWEN site is mandatory.

Class Meetings. This is a three-hour course that will meet twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:15-7:30 P.M., in Room 221, in one 75-minute session without a break. Student participation in class discussions, primarily through Socratic dialog with the instructor, will be stressed. A seating chart will be distributed at the first class meeting, and will be used as the definitive indicator of students' presence and location throughout the semester.

Initial Reading Assignments. The initial phase of the course will cover all of Chapters 1-3 of the Casebook, plus Chapter 6. Some of Chapters 1-3 (e.g., CB1-17) is primarily background material for your independent study. Other portions (such as CB79-105, on the justification for punishment) are designed for a different type of background study, to familiarize the student with concepts that will motivate the discussion of case materials in class. Still other portions (such as CB 17-42, on evidence and proof in criminal cases) are intended to provide a very rudimentary introduction to other subjects that affect Criminal Law.

During the first two weeks of classes, you also must familiarize yourself with those portions of the Model Penal Code reprinted as an Appendix to the casebook. Throughout the semester, we will be referring to the Model Penal Code as our principal example of a codified system of criminal law. To be successful in the course, the student must develop the habit of examining the Model Penal Code's approach to each of the topics discussed. Along the way, the student should develop proficiency in the analysis of codified criminal statutes in particular and codified statutes more generally. That proficiency is a major legal-method training objective of the course.

Specific assignments for the first five classes are as follows:

January 8: CB1-17 (as background); CB17-42 (for class discussion)

January 13: CB42-73

January 15: CB79-105 (as foundation); CB73-78, 105-20 (for class discussion)

January 20: CB121-32

January 22: CB133, 182-212 [Note: CB134-82 will be covered in class discussion later, and could be read here as useful foundation.]

A full syllabus for the entire course will be posted on the TWEN site by the end of the first week of classes.