

## Module 5: Criminal Law

### Headline Information about the module

<b>Module Number</b>	5	<b>Module Title</b>	Criminal Law						
<b>Stage of Principal Programme</b>			1	<b>Semester</b>	2	<b>Duration.</b> <i>(Weeks F/T)</i>	12	<b>ECTS</b>	10
<b>Mandatory / Elective (M/E)</b>	M	<b>Hours of Learner Effort / Week<sup>6</sup></b>	3						
<b>Analysis of required hours of learning effort</b>									
<b>Teaching and Learning Modalities</b>						<b>✓if relevant to this module</b>	<b>Approx. proportion of total (hours)</b>		
<b>Contact Hours</b>									
In person face-to-face									
Synchronous						✓	40		
<b>Indirect/Non-Contact Hours</b>									
Asynchronous						✓	6		
Work Based									
Other - Independent						✓	204		
<b>Total</b>							250		

<b>Pre-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title</b>	N/A	
<b>Co-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title</b>	N/A	
<b>Maximum number of learners per instance of the module</b>	80	
<b>Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.</b>		
<b>Role e.g., Tutor, Mentor, Lecturer, Research Supervisor, etc.</b>	<b>Qualifications &amp; experience required</b>	<b>Staff - Learner Ratio X:Y</b>
Lecturer	Lecturers expected to hold at minimum a Level 8 legal qualification, preferably with a professional legal qualification. It is an advantage to have completed the Certificate in Education, Learning and Development provided by Griffith College. Industry experience is beneficial but not a requirement.	1:80
Tutor	Tutors expected to hold at minimum a Level 8 legal qualification, preferably with a professional legal qualification.	1:40

<sup>6</sup> Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week i.e. effort while in contact with staff

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution					
Continuous Assessment	40	Proctored Exam – in person	60	Practical Skills Based	
Project		Proctored Exam - online		Work Based	
Capstone (Y/N)?		If Yes, describe			

### Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes (MIMLOs)

MIMLO	Related MIPLO #
<b>On completion of this module a learner will be able to:</b>	
1. Explain the purpose and principles underpinning criminal liability and offences.	1
2. Analyse the elements of major offences and available defences.	2
3. Apply criminal law principles to complex factual scenarios.	4
4. Assess complex criminal law problems that involve overlapping legal issues.	5
5. Research and interpret statutory case law to support criminal law analysis.	2
6. Conduct legal research on a criminal law issue and present findings in a structured written essay.	3
7. Evaluate ethical consideration in criminal justice, including fairness and proportionality.	8

### Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

Criminal Law is a 10 credit module taught by way of 3-hour lectures over the course of 12 weeks in the first semester. It is additionally supplemented by two 2x hour tutorial sessions.

Specifically, the topics covered are as follows:

- 1. The Principles of Criminal Law**
  - a. Origins and Purpose of Criminal Law
  - b. Classification of Crime
  - c. Constitutional Rights
- 2. Criminal Liability**
  - a. *Actus Reus* (including omissions and causation)
  - b. *Mens Rea* (including recklessness and knowledge)
  - c. Crimes of Strict Liability
  - d. Complicity in Criminal Offences
- 3. Inchoate Offences**
  - a. Incitement
  - b. Conspiracy
  - c. Attempt
- 4. Public Order Offences**
- 5. Offences Against the State**
- 6. Homicide Offences:**
  - a. Murder
  - b. Manslaughter
  - c. Vehicular Manslaughter
  - d. Infanticide

- 7. Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person:**
  - a. Assault
  - b. Harassment
  - c. Endangerment
  - d. False Imprisonment
  - e. Domestic Violence
- 8. Sexual Offences**
  - a. Rape
  - b. Sexual Assault
  - c. Aggravated Sexual Assault
  - d. Sexual Offences Against Children
  - e. Incest
  - f. Image Based Sexual Abuse
- 9. Theft and Fraud Offences**
  - a. Theft
  - b. Making a Gain/Causing a Loss by Deception
  - c. Obtaining Services by Deception
  - d. Making Off Without Payment
  - e. Unlawful Use of a Computer
  - f. False Accounting
  - g. Burglary
  - h. Aggravated Burglary
  - i. Robbery
  - j. Handling and Possessing Stolen Property
  - k. Forgery and Offences Relating to False Instruments
- 10. Criminal Damage (including Arson)**
- 11. Firearms and Offensive Weapons**
- 12. Drug Offences**
- 13. Offences Against the Administration of Justice (including Perjury and Contempt of Court)**
- 14. Criminal Defences**
  - a. General (including Insanity, Intoxication, Self-Defence, Infancy, Mistake, Duress, Consent, Automatism, Necessity and Unconstitutionality)
  - b. Defences Specific to Murder (including Provocation, Excessive Self Defence and Diminished Responsibility)

### **Work-based learning and practice-placement (if applicable)**

There is no work-based learning or practical placement in the module.

### **Specific module resources required (if applicable)**

Requirements are for a fully equipped classroom. The classroom has Wi-Fi access and is equipped with a PC with Zoom and Microsoft Office. In addition the classroom has digital recording facilities and digital projector. No other software is required for this module. The College library has a dedicated law section and online legal research tools including V-Lex Justis, Westlaw, Bloomsbury Professional and Hein Online.

## Application of programme teaching, learning and assessment strategies to this module

Teaching emphasises the applied analysis of criminal liability through participative lectures. Sessions frequently begin with a short factual example illustrating an element of *actus reus* or *mens rea*, encouraging learners to identify key issues before moving to more detailed doctrinal explanation. Learners discuss variations in the scenario to explore how different interpretations could lead to different legal outcomes. Understanding criminal liability here provides the doctrinal foundation for the applied procedural work undertaken in Criminal Practice and Procedure.

Tutorials strengthen these skills by providing opportunities to work through structured problem questions covering multiple offences or defences. Learners practise breaking down lengthy factual scenarios, organising issues clearly and comparing their reasoning against model approaches or marking criteria. The ILAC structure is used consistently across the programme to support clear and transferable analytical skills.

Online activities support consolidation of key principles, offering short problem exercises, definitional quizzes or discussion prompts. The hybrid delivery model ensures that learners can engage fully through discussion, breakout rooms and collaborative tasks. Materials are provided in diverse formats, including short case summaries, flowcharts and optional self-directed quizzes, reflecting UDL principles and supporting learner autonomy.

Formative learning is embedded throughout, preparing learners for the research assignment and examination. Together these assessments test learners' ability to integrate doctrinal understanding with clear and structured analysis of criminal law problems. This assessment structure is aligned to the MIMLOs and supports the development of both doctrinal understanding and applied legal reasoning.

### Summative Assessment Strategy for this module

<b>MIMLOs</b>	<b>Technique(s)</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>1 – 4</b>	<b>Research Assignment</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>5 – 7</b>	<b>Closed-Book Exam</b>	<b>60%</b>

### Sample Assessment Materials

See Section 5 of the Assessment Materials Supporting Documentation.

### Indicative reading lists and other information resources

1. Peter Charleton & Paul McDermott, *Criminal Law and Evidence* (2nd edn, Bloomsbury Professional 2020).
2. Liz Campbell & Others, *Criminal Law in Ireland: Cases and Commentary* (2nd edn, Bloomsbury Professional 2020).
3. Finbarr McAuley & Paul McCutcheon, *Criminal Liability* (2nd edn, Round Hall 2022).
4. Éamonn O'Moore, *Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person: Law and Practice* (Clarus Press 2017).
5. Thomas O'Malley, *Sexual Offences* (3rd edn, Round Hall 2025).
6. Susan Leahy and Margaret Fitzgerald O'Reilly, *Sexual Offending in Ireland: Laws, Procedures and Punishment* (Clarus Press 2018).
7. Garnet Orange, *Drug Offences in Ireland* (Bloomsbury Professional 2021).