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**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
PLSC 456-Winter, 2016**

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Mark Maironis
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Office hours: 11:00 to 12:30 p.m., Monday & Wednesday,
& by appointment.
Class time: 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., Monday & Wednesday
Location: Room 421, Pray-Harrold

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce substantive criminal law in the United States to the student. It is intended to provide a broad background to the issues associated with the prosecution of crimes and the inherent limitations imposed on those prosecutions. It is further intended to provide specific details as to particular criminal laws and their application. Discussions concerning procedural criminal law will be limited.

REQUIRED READING

Criminal Law, Ninth Edition, 2013, by Sue Titus Reid. Publisher is Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-989938-8

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

There will be three exams, inclusive of the final exam, and one paper. Exams will cover both reading and lecture material and are not cumulative. The exams will consist of multiple choice, true or false questions, write-in or essays. Exams must be taken at the regularly scheduled time unless another time has been previously approved by the instructor or in the case of a documented emergency. Each exam will constitute 25% of your grade; the paper will constitute the remaining 25%.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

The purpose of this assignment is to enhance your critical thinking skills while reinforcing some of the course content to which you have been exposed. Hopefully, it will also allow you to attain additional knowledge based on your own research. Further, it should challenge your ability to apply the proper law to a given set of facts.

The assignment consists of taking a set of facts which I will provide you and ruling on various motions made in court concerning those facts. You may rule in favor of or against the individual motions, justifying your reasoning using various concepts of law which you have learned through this course or independently. While you may not change the facts of the case, you may choose to emphasize one fact over another. Thus, you may prioritize one fact, while ignoring another as not being relevant to your decision. However, you must set forth the reasons why one fact is given precedent, as well as why other facts are being ignored. A copy of the factual scenario will be provided to you at a later date.

The paper should be five to eight pages long, typed and double-spaced. Grading will be based on your knowledge of the law, how you apply it to the facts and the reasonableness of your arguments. It will constitute 25% of your course grade. It is due on or before April 4, 2016. **No late papers will be accepted.**

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

1/6 to 2/7/16	An Introduction to Criminal Law	Chapters 1
	Elements of a Crime	Chapter 2
	Anticipatory Offenses and Parties to Crimes	Chapter 3
2/8/16	<u>First Exam</u>	
2/8 to 3/6/16	Defenses to Criminal Culpability	Chapter 4
	Criminal Homicide	Chapters 5
	Assault, Robbery, etc.	Chapter 6
3/7/16	<u>Second Exam</u>	
3/7 to 4/21/16	Property & Related Crimes	Chapter 7
	Crimes Against Public Order, Morality, Etc.	Chapter 8
	Crimes Against the Government	Chapter 9
4/4/16	<u>Paper Due</u>	
4/22/16 (11:30 a.m.)	<u>Final Exam</u>	