



Criminal Sentencing and Appeals

Course Description

The Criminal Sentencing and Appeals course focuses on the post-verdict phase in criminal cases, from sentencing through appeals. It presents a survey on the different types of sentences, including plea-bargains, diversion, fines, probation, community service, house arrest and incarceration. The course also looks at sentencing structure, including discussions of concurrent and consecutive sentences, split sentences, and suspended sentences. The course also discusses appeals of sentences.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the sentencing procedure that occurs after conviction or guilty plea;
- Determine what options are available to a judge when sentencing a criminal defendant after conviction or guilty plea;
- Differentiate between and define concurrent and consecutive sentences, split sentences, suspended sentences and other distinctions
- Describe the appeals process and limitations after conviction, sentencing or guilty plea;
- Articulate the differences between the roles of trial and appellate courts
- Describe the final judgment rule and the process of appellate procedure in criminal cases

Final Exam

Grades and credit recommendations are based solely on a final exam. When students are ready to take the final exam, they should register for a LawShelf account (or simply log in, for those with existing accounts). Go to the video-course page and click “Take the Final Exam” and pay the exam fee, where applicable. Students will be given instructions on how to take the exam. All exams are proctored by the Voice Proctor® proctoring system. An overview of the system is [provided here](#) and it requires no training or learning curve. Grades of 70% or above are considered passing grades and qualify for recommended transfer credit.

The final exam is based on the video course modules. Additional resources detailed in this syllabus are helpful for background and for building greater understanding of the course materials.

Inquiries can be made through the LawShelf Contact form on our website by clicking the “email us” button that appears at the bottom of most LawShelf pages. Transcripts can be ordered via Parchment, as detailed on our website.

Case Studies

Many LawShelf video courses include case studies. These do not necessarily teach new material but are meant to demonstrate how the materials covered in the course are applied by various courts. Concepts covered in the case studies are covered on the final exam; so watching the case studies is necessary before taking the exam. However, it is unnecessary to memorize the facts and details of the cases covered in these case studies.

Self-Quizzes

Video-course modules and case studies feature self-quizzes that consist of practice questions on the materials covered in the videos. These questions are presented for the benefit of the student and are **important to review before taking the final exam** because they are similar in style and substance to the questions on the final exam. These quizzes are not graded or monitored and there is no record of how students answer these questions. Students may answer these questions as many times as they like and are encouraged to keep re-taking the quizzes until they have mastered all the questions.

Study Guide

Introductory Videos

These videos provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

Due Process Rights in Criminal Case: The Right to Counsel

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/due-process-rights-in-criminal-case-the-right-to-counsel/?TimeIndex=10>

The State of the Death Penalty in the United States

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/the-state-of-the-death-penalty-in-the-united-states/?TimeIndex=109>

The Constitutionality of Using Computer Models to Determine Criminal Sentences

<https://lawshelf.com/blogentryview/the-constitutionality-of-using-computer-models-to-determine-criminal-sentences/>

Courseware Readings

These courseware readings provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

The following sections of “Foundations of Law” courseware:

<https://lawshelf.com/coursewareview>: Criminal Procedure

Rights at Trial – The Sixth Amendment

[The Right to Effective Assistance of Counsel](#)

[Protection from Cruel and Unusual Punishment](#)

Video Course Modules

These videos constitute the main part of the course and are they sources of the questions on the final exam.

Criminal Sentencing and Appeals Introduction

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursescontentview/criminal-sentencing-appeals>

Sentencing Options - Module 1 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/sentencing-options-module-1-of-5>

Sentencing Procedure - Module 2 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/sentencing-procedure-module-2-of-5>

Sentencing Statutes and Guidelines - Module 3 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/sentencing-statutes-and-guidelines-module-3-of-5>

The Right to Appeal - Module 4 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/the-right-to-appeal-module-4-of-5>

Appellate Procedure - Module 5 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/appellate-procedure-module-5-of-5>

Supplemental Suggested Readings

These materials enable students to achieve a deeper understanding of the course materials and in applying the course to real-life situations.

Federal Sentencing: The Basics

https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-projects-and-surveys/miscellaneous/201811_fed-sentencing-basics.pdf

Criminal Appeals

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/criminal_justice/publications/criminal_justice_section_archive/crimjust_standards_crimappeals_blk/