1- SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

This course has been designed to study substantive Criminal Law from a Comparative and International perspective. For that reason, we have selected the most relevant crimes and offenses from common law and civil law systems to analyze their concrete regulation and interpretation problems.

We will study initiatives to understand the use of Criminal Law to address global and regional problems and how legislators are trying to develop a global approach which encompasses comparative and international law. Thinking on global lawyers for the 21st century, this syllabus includes a wide range of topics dealing with national, cross-border, international and European crimes.

2- OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

The aims of the course as follows:

- To provide essential knowledge of Comparative Criminal Law.
- To apply relevant Criminal Law theories in diverse jurisdictions
- To develop advanced skills and competences in Criminal Law topics

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able:

- To identify the role of substantive Criminal Law in modern societies
- To understand concepts and legal institutions in national and international Criminal Law systems
- To analyze and compare Criminal Law issues in different jurisdictions
- To criticize the application of substantive Criminal Law in common and civil law systems
- Propose innovative solutions to develop advisory work on Comparative Criminal Law topics.
3- CONTENT

SESSIONS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.
- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Suicide assistance / Euthanasia
- Physical harm and apprehension
- Sexual crimes: rape and abuse
- Confinement
- Domestic violence

**Aim**: To analyze the use of criminal sanction to protect fundamental rights

SESSIONS 6, 7, 8, & 9.
- Robbery
- Larceny
- Embezzlement
- False pretenses
- Theft crimes
- Other personal property crimes
- Antitrust crimes

**Aim**: To evaluate the use of criminal sanction to protect property rights

SESSIONS 10, 11, & 12.
- Human Trafficking
- Drug trafficking
- Money laundering

**Aim**: To evaluate the protection of global interests through criminal law and procedural mechanisms for its enforcement

SESSIONS 13 & 14.
- Perjury
- Crimes against witnesses
- False denunciation or accusation
- Obstruction of justice

**Aim**: To identify and understand legal implications of contempt crimes in Common and Civil law Systems

SESSIONS 15 & 16.
- International piracy
- Corruption in international transactions

**Aim**: To analyse the evolution of the most relevant treaty-based crimes
SESSIONS 17-21.
- Genocide
- Crimes against humanity
- War crimes
- Aggression
- International Tribunals

Aim: To know the definition and elements of international criminals and the structure of the International Criminal System

SESSIONS 22-23. MOVIE AND DISCUSSION

SESSIONS 24-26.
- Substantive Criminal Law: European harmonization process
- European Arrest Warrant vs. Extradition
- European Criminal Institutions

Aim: To understand concepts and legal institutions in European Criminal Law system

SESSIONS 27-28. PAPER PRESENTATIONS

SESSIONS 29-30 EXAM

4- METHODOLOGY AND ECTS WEIGHTING

Each student has four attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course. Attendance at 70% of the classes is compulsory and an absence of more than 30% will result in a grade of 0.0 for the subject. In addition, students not fulfilling the attendance requirement will automatically lose two attempts to pass the course and will thus only have two last attempts to do so during the following academic year.

Students are expected to prepare the readings and the assigned tasks for each class. Class preparation and class participation are essential in order to pass the course.

The course is based on a mixture between theory and cases.

Multiple-choice test will cover theoretical and practical issues.

Paper: based on any of the topics of the syllabus at group choice. It should be a 10 pages original research. For this activity students will be divided into groups and discuss the topics with me.

Cases (to take-home): they will be distributed to the students with instructions.

Participation is more than raising your hand. We highly recommend the use of a laptop in class, Wi-Fi connection needed. In any case, the use of Wi-Fi for activities not related to this class will
hinder your grade on participation. The use of iPhones, Blackberries and cell phones is not allowed.

5- EVALUATION SYSTEM

5.1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Students will be evaluated on their whole research, reading, writing process and participation.

The course grade will depend on four components:

- Final exam: 50%
- Cases: 20%
- Paper: 20%
- Participation: 10%

6 ECTS × 25 student work hours = 150 hours, divided as follows:

- 45 hours: lectures and class sessions, 15 of which will be devoted to practical exercises, cases and debates.
- 70 hours: student personal learning and reflecting, including class preparation, class readings, individual and group assignments, etc.
- 32 hours: Final Paper preparation
- 3 hours: written exam

5.2. EVALUATION AND WEIGHTING CRITERIA

PAPER CRITERIA

10 pages maxinum
Font size: 12.
Double line spacing.
Correct use of English
Every source used must be documented correctly and consistently according to the chosen referencing system, e.g. Harvard Blue Book

IMPORTANT: Students who are in third or fourth call should contact the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

RETAKE EXAM

If a student's course grade is below 5.0, the student is required to take the retake exam to pass the course.

The maximum grade that students can obtain in the retake exam period is 8.0.

A student who has missed over 30% of the class meetings will not be allowed to take the retake exam, but will only have two attempts left to pass the course during the following academic year.