

Contemporary Issues of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

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The course aims to introduce postgraduate students to contemporary critical issues of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice in Greece, Europe, and internationally. We present and delve into complex contemporary doctrinal and interpretative issues, primarily from the field of Substantive Criminal Law, but also from Procedural Criminal Law and Criminal Policy at a legal-policy related level.

Among other things, the course addresses issues such as the establishment of criminal liability at an early stage (preparation, risk offences, organized criminality structures etc.), criminal law of the so called (ideological) "enemy", the instrumentalization of criminal law through excessive criminalization/penalization or decriminalization, the distinction between eventual intent and conscious negligence, rationalization of penalties based on justice and proportionality, the criminal liability of legal entities, as well as managers of enterprises and their collaborators, causality issues, "plea bargaining" and criminal negotiation procedures within the framework of restorative justice. We also explore selected topics in the fields of organized and economic crime, terrorism, cybercrime, cross-border crime, and international criminal justice.

The broad range of the course's topics is complemented by modern procedural criminal issues such as special investigative techniques, whistleblowers, international and European judicial and police cooperation in criminal cases, the recovery of illegally acquired assets, and more classical issues such as the presumption of innocence, aspects of fair trial, the rights of the accused. The analysis of these topics is attempted at both a theoretical and practical level, for example, through the elaboration of important new court decisions.

Students are given the opportunity to delve, at their discretion, into one of the offered topics through oral presentations and written assignments, which they are required to submit at the end of the semester. The course topics are updated annually to align with jurisprudential and regulatory developments.

The teaching of the course is based on a combination of lectures by the instructor and guest experts, presentations by postgraduate students, and oral discussions, with the central goal of advancing scientific dialogue through the active participation of students.