Continue

Reviewed by Kelly Arney, Dean of Behavioral Sciences, Associate Professor, Grace College on 12/22/23 This textbook covers the main subject areas of criminal law. The introduction to criminal law and the legal system are the first two chapters and lead to a nice introduction to the rest of the textbook. The book develops by explaining the... read more Reviewed by Kelly Arney, Dean of Behavioral Sciences, Associate Professor, Grace College on 12/22/23 Comprehensiveness rating: 5 see less This textbook covers the main subject areas of criminal law. The introduction to criminal law and the legal system are the first two chapters and lead to a nice introduction to the rest of the textbook. The book develops by explaining the constitutional protections and then defenses. In other books, I have seen defenses after crimes against property, the public, and the government. This criminal law textbook starts with defenses and then moves forward with types of offenses. The elements of a crime are divided into criminal elements, intent, and harm. This has more coverage in this section than I have seen in other textbooks. This textbook makes it easy for undergraduate students to fully understand this foundational information. It covers the subject appropriately and effectively in this way. Content Accuracy rating: 5 No biases or inaccurate information was found. This textbook used facts and cases that are well documented. Relevance/Longevity rating: 4 This textbook includes the core criminal law concepts as covered by most criminal law textbooks. The chapters flow in logical order and build on their information in a nice methodical way. The contents are up-to-date for the publication date of 2015. Instructors will need to provide some updated material to supplement this textbook, but the ideas, terms, and chapters are valuable. I am giving this a 4 because it is a 2015 publication and will need updated supplemental materials. Clarity rating: 5 The textbook is presented clearly. This seems as though it would be easily understood by undergraduate students. The terminology is identified in a clear way and the chapters flow into each other in an organized way. No jargon or confusing terminology was found. This uses special terminology. Consistency rating: 5 Consistent terminology and framework were used throughout the textbook. It made the build from chapter to chapter easy to follow. Modularity rating: 5 This textbook is nicely broken down and organized into smaller reading sections. It would be simple for an instructor to reference a specific section or assign a specific section in the book. It is easy to access from different points within the course. It is nicely organized and easy to follow. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 The organization of this textbook was logical and clear. The chapters seemed to build on each other. It was organized a little differently from previous textbooks but did so in an effective way. In other books, I have seen defenses after crimes against property, the public, and the government. This criminal law textbook starts with defenses and then moves forward with types of offenses. The elements of a crime are divided into criminal elements, intent, and harm. This has more coverage in this section than I have seen in other textbooks. This textbook makes it easy for undergraduate students to fully understand this foundational information. It covers the subject appropriately and effectively in this way. Interface rating: 5 This textbook was free of any interface issues or navigational issues. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 I have not identified any grammatical errors. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 This textbook does effectively raise the complex issues of race and ethnicity in criminal law in a responsible manner. No issues with insensitivity or offensive language that I found. Comments This was an excellent textbook. It was well-organized and relevant. Keep in mind it is from 2015, so some up-to-date material will be required by the instructor. Reviewed by DeAris Hoard, Lecturer of Criminal Justice, Eastern New Mexico University on 12/12/21 The text was quite comprehensive and covered the subject matter in a fashion easily understood by undergraduate students. The text is an excellent resource for undergraduate students in introductory-level courses. read more Reviewed by DeAris Hoard, Lecturer of Criminal Justice, Eastern New Mexico University on 12/12/21 Comprehensiveness rating: 5 see less The text was quite comprehensive and covered the subject matter in a fashion easily understood by undergraduate students. The text is an excellent resource for undergraduate students in introductory-level courses. Content Accuracy rating: 5 The text provided an accurate representation of knowledge regarding the subject matter. Relevance/Longevity rating: 4 The information provided in the text is mixed/varied. There are newer sources referenced in the text, along with older, yet valuable, sources. Clarity rating: 5 The text is presented clearly and in a manner easily understood by undergraduate students in introductory or cursory courses. Consistency rating: 5 The text is consistent with the learning objectives, table of contents, and supplementary definitions presented. Modularity rating: 5 The text is nicely broken and organized into smaller reading sections. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 The organization and flow of the text were both logical and clear. Interface rating: 5 The text was easy to navigate, and there were no distracting or confusing images or charts. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 There we no observed grammatical errors/issues. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 There were no observed issues in the text concerning cultural sensitivity. Reviewed by Robert Henderson, Assistant Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage on 12/29/20, updated 1/10/21 I found this textbook to be an excellent resource for an upper-division, undergraduate course in Criminal Law. Criminal law is a relatively straight-forward topic and this text does a good job of providing a good overview of the topic. The... read more Reviewed by Robert Henderson, Assistant Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage on 12/29/20, updated 1/10/21 Comprehensiveness rating: 4 see less I found this textbook to be an excellent resource for an upper-division, undergraduate course in Criminal Law. Criminal law is a relatively straight-forward topic and this text does a good job of providing a good overview of the topic. The textbook highlights the majority of the significant aspects of criminal law and is written in an easy to understand format. To provide complete overview of the topic, I recommend supplementing the textbook with jurisdiction-specific caselaw, allowing the students to experience factual application of the principles discussed in the textbook. All but one chapter provide the students with an in-depth review of the relevant subtopic. Chapter 12, Crimes Against the Public, was not as developed as earlier chapters. I expanded Chapter 12 into two, separate subparts: Public Order Offenses and Social Order Offenses. I expanded Chapter 12 in an effort to provide a more comprehensive overview of the various crimes included within this range of conduct. Content Accuracy rating: 5 The textbook is generally accurate and error-free. Given that criminal law is jurisdiction-specific, the textbook does a good job of providing various examples of the different principles. This is especially true when augmented with jurisdiction-specific caselaw. Relevance/Longevity rating: 5 The textbook is up-to-date and addresses all major developments within criminal law. Clarity rating: 5 The textbook works well as the primary textbook for an upper-division, undergraduate textbook. The text is easily understood by undergraduate students. The text is consistently unbiased. Modularity rating: 5 With the exception of the first two chapters, both of which provide general background and fundamental principles surrounding criminal law, the textbook chapters are easily re-arranged to fit different course schedules. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 Although I personally re-organized the chapters, it was only due to personal preference. The textbook's modularity allowed this easily adjustment. Interface rating: 5 Neither I, nor my students, faced any significant interface issues using this textbook. It is accessible and available in different media formats. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 I have not identified any grammatical errors. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 I did not find the textbook to be culturally insensitive or offensive. Comments Overall, I would recommend this textbook to instructors teaching an upper-division, undergraduate course in criminal law. Although the textbook does not have all of the "features" of a commercial textbook (i.e., study guides, test banks), I found the textbook worked well as supplementary materials. This is not a criticism – given that criminal law is a jurisdictional-specific subject matter, the textbook does a good job of providing students with general, foundational concepts and allows the instructor to easily supplement the course with jurisdiction-relevant information. All but one chapter provide the students with an in-depth review of the relevant subtopic. Chapter 12, Crimes Against the Public, was not as developed as earlier chapters. I expanded Chapter 12 into two, separate subparts: Public Order Offenses and Social Order Offenses. I expanded Chapter 12 in an effort to provide a more comprehensive overview of the various crimes included within this range of conduct. Reviewed by Robert Rocklin, Pro Tem Faculty, University of Oregon on 6/10/20 The text is generally comprehensive. It covers all the major areas of criminal law, from individual crimes to broader issues such as the role of the United States Constitution in placing limits on criminal punishment. The text has a fairly... read more Reviewed by Robert Rocklin, Pro Tem Faculty, University of Oregon on 6/10/20 Comprehensiveness rating: 5 see less The text is generally comprehensive. It covers all the major areas of criminal law, from individual crimes to broader issues such as the role of the United States Constitution in placing limits on criminal punishment. The text has a fairly detailed table of contents, but no index or glossary. The latter omission is surprising, because the text includes many terms that are bolded, which in other texts often suggests that they are defined in a glossary. Content Accuracy rating: 3 The content appears to be unbiased. There are, however, a number of errors or inaccuracies. As just one example, the first chapter states that the goal of civil litigation is to "compensate the plaintiff for any injuries and to put the plaintiff back in the position that the person held before the injury occurred." And the discussion and examples that follow all focus on tort litigation and money damages. But civil litigation is much broader than that, encompassing contract disputes, property issues, injunctive relief, and a host of other issues and remedies. Similarly, the text states that the goal of criminal prosecution is to "punish the defendant." But as the text later explains, there are at least four goals that criminal law seeks to serve. As another example, the text states that, in Gonzales v. Oregon, 546 U.S. 243 (2006), the Court held that the United States Attorney General "cannot criminalize the use of drugs under Oregon's Death With Dignity Act." But that case dealt with license revocation, not criminal sanctions. There are many other inaccurate statements throughout the book. Relevance/Longevity rating: 5 The content is up-to-date. Because criminal law varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, it is impossible to be completely up-to-date in the details. But the general principles addressed in the text are descriptive of contemporary criminal law. Clarity rating: 5 My biggest complaint that I have text based textbooks is that it is extremely clear and provides exceptions. For example, the text states, "Lawyers primarily use precedent in their arguments, rather than statutes or the Constitution, because it is so specific." That statement is both inaccurate and confusing. Another example: The text states that judicial opinions "can also contain more than one case law . . . ." That sentence is, at the least, confusing. As for context, although the text generally does a good job of providing relevant context, there are some lapses. For example, the text mentions "double jeopardy" without explaining what it is. Consistency rating: 5 The text is internally consistent in terms of terminology and framework. Modularity rating: 5 The text gets high marks on modularity. The text includes few, if any, long sections; it makes generous use of headings. Occasionally, it is inappropriately self-referential. For example, in section 8.1 "Attempt" the text mentions a concept and then says, "as is discussed in Section 8.1 'Attempt'." Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 The text is well-organized. It follows the basic organization of the news and our minds these days, the truth is that terrorism charges/convictions are still few compared to the other crimes in the U.S. And I think the textbook at least offers a good starting point for a discussion on terrorism – the instructor can easily find additional material about current day challenges to the PATRIOT Act and current news stories about recent terrorism acts and charges. Content Accuracy rating: 5 I found very few (if any) errors in this textbook. I am a licensed attorney and have been so disappointed in the past with other textbooks with inaccurate information and just a plain misunderstanding of how the law works. It is clear to me that the author of this textbook is an attorney — which is how it should be. Too often I find that Criminal Law textbooks are written by non-attorneys which makes little to no sense. Sure, non-attorneys can write about Criminal Justice in general and certain specific topics, but I think the matter of law (especially constitutional and criminal law) should be left to those actually trained in the interpretation and practice of the law. Relevance/Longevity rating: 5 This textbook does a great job of providing relevant and up-to-date court decisions and statutes. It is impossible to write a law textbook that will not need to be updated at some point because the law does change - it's just the nature of the beast. However, this text gives a great overview of the overarching Supreme Court decisions and underlying themes/policies that do not change very often. I also found that it was easy to insert my own state's statutes into my lectures. As a result, the students learned the general principles and majority views from this textbook – and then I showed them specifically what Louisiana requires. So when it comes to updating my course, I really just need to focus on my state's statutory changes. Clarity rating: 5 My biggest complaint that I have text based textbooks is that it is extremely clear and provides excellent real-life examples to demonstrate each concept/element. I wish this textbook had been around back when I was in law school!! It would have been much easier to understand. I love how this textbook breaks every topic into clear and concise sections (with a clear bold heading to boot!) – and then the author just gets right in, explains the concept, gives an example, and then moves on. No need to use fancy and excessive language when it is simply not needed. My only real complaint (if you can even call it that) is that some of the examples were a little far-fetched or maybe didn't illustrate a point perfectly, but it was easy enough to come up with my own examples to illustrate the point. And there really were only just a handful of examples that I did not like - the overwhelming majority of them were spot-on. These examples are crucial to put the law into context for students. Without them, it's just a bunch of concepts that the students can't always translate into the real world. Consistency rating: 5 This book was consistent all the way through. Modularity rating: 5 I really liked how the chapters are divided up into reasonable chunks with clear and bold headings. Each section was also relatively small (consisting of usually only a few paragraphs) which made for easy reading and comprehension. I also appreciated how each section of the chapter ended with a summary, hypothetical scenarios, and real court cases that illustrate the points covered in the text. The end-of-the-chapter reviews were also great with additional questions/hypothetical scenarios for the students to ponder and to illustrate how the law translates into real-life cases. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 The topics of this text are organized to perfection. I really have no complaints in this area. I follow the textbook in the order as it was written because I saw no reason to change it. The student really must have a good understanding of possible constitutional challenges and the basic elements of all crimes (criminal act, intent, attendant circumstances, etc) before you can really dive into each category of specific crimes. Interface rating: 5 I did not notice any problems in this area, and heard no complaints from students either. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 I did not notice any grammatical errors – and I greatly appreciated how the case and statutory citations were all correct!! Too often, I see other textbooks get that part wrong which is frustrating. Again, probably because criminal law varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, it is impossible to be completely separate beast than other forms of citations. So great job in this area! Cultural Relevance rating: 5 I do not recall reading any portions of the texts (including examples) that were offensive. I think the author did a very nice job of remaining neutral and culturally appropriate. Comments This is an overall excellent textbook! I teach this course at a community college and I find that students are easily able to follow along and understand the content. Yet, it is not over-simplistic at all. It covers a large amount of material in an appropriate amount of time/space and gives real-life examples that help students connect the dots between the criminal statute and policies with actual criminal charges/trials/convictions. I will be using this textbook for years to come. A huge shout-out to the author of this fabulous open textbook! Reviewed by Dave Coffey, Prof/Program Head Administration of Justice, Thomas Nelson Community College on 3/6/19 This is a good Criminal Law text for college undergraduates. The text covers most of the major areas of criminal law. The chapter orders are logically sequenced providing a building block approach for students. Material is presented clearly and... read more Reviewed by Dave Coffey, Prof/Program Head Administration of Justice, Thomas Nelson Community College on 3/6/19 Comprehensiveness rating: 5 see less This is a good Criminal Law text for college undergraduates. The text covers most of the major areas of criminal law. The chapter orders are logically sequenced providing a building block approach for students. Material is presented clearly and... read more easy for students to understand. "End of Chapters" includes exercises, questions, case citations and links as well as websites and articles, all very good resources for students. Content Accuracy rating: 5 The broad concepts covered in this book and the materials used to present them contains no inaccurate information that I am aware of. Relevance/Longevity rating: 5 The core criminal law concepts as covered in this book and its chapters are long standing principles and generally have not dramatically changed over the past years. Criminal law changes slowly and therefore this book should be a good intro book for many years. Additionally the text should be relatively easy to update in the modular format that it is written. There are a number of hyperlinks used throughout the book that need to be checked regularly for accuracy. Clarity rating: 5 The book is very easy to follow and written in such a way as students of all levels should be able to read and understand the materials. The substantive materials are reinforced and supported by interesting examples and critical thinking exercises to assist students in their understanding of the subject. The book also provides many examples and visual aids to explain many of the concepts and terms used. I would say this book is very friendly. Consistency rating: 5 The book generally is consistent throughout as it relates to the layout of chapters, terminology, formatting and presentation of information. Every chapter concludes with an End of Chapter section that has exercises with answers, case listings, summaries and links to websites. I think students will find these materials very useful. Chapters followed a consistent user friendly formatting that further aids student's understanding. Modularity rating: 5 The text is written in a logical, easy to follow, modular format that allows for easy reorganization and assignments for students. Each chapter is focused on specific learning objectives and materials that support the learning objectives. Assignments can be tailored around the learning objectives. Each chapter is broken down and numbered into sub-components of the overall chapter topic. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 The structure, organization and flow of the materials contained in the book are logical and follow in a manner that is conducive to learning. The textbook provides a basic introduction to Criminal Law to include the U.S. legal system; constitutional laws and protections; and traditional general elements of Criminal Law and specific crimes and defenses. This material is broken down into logical presentations and sections. Interface rating: 4 I did not see any major problems with student textbook interface. However, I did have some problems with returning to the same spot in the textbook after clicking on some links. Most links worked fine but some seemed to be a little problematic and one was expired. It could have been my computer or the. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 I did not notice any glaring grammatical errors. Overall the textbook appeared to be very well written. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 The book appears to be culturally appropriate for the course and subject matter. I did not find any culturally incentive or offensive material or examples in the book. Comments I would certainly consider adopting this textbook for my Criminal Law course. It covers the major topics relative to Criminal Law and it does so in a manner that I think would be beneficial to our students. The textbook is equal to and in many ways, better than many of the leading textbooks for purchase that are on the market and in our bookstores today. Reviewed by Kelly Ayers, Clinical Instructor, West Virginia University on 5/21/18 The information covered in this text is general in nature, yet thorough enough to understand the foundations of the topic. Given that I would be using this text for undergraduate students, the amount of information and its depth seem to be on... read more Reviewed by Kelly Ayers, Clinical Instructor, West Virginia University on 5/21/18 Comprehensiveness rating: 5 see less The information covered in this text is general in nature, yet thorough enough to understand the foundations of the topic. Given that I would be using this text for undergraduate students, the amount of information and its depth seem to be on... read more Content Accuracy rating: 5 I am not a legal expert and cannot comment specifically to the accuracy; however, I do appreciate the long list of individuals provided that were identified as having reviewed the material prior to publication specifically for that purpose. Relevance/Longevity rating: 5 Criminal law itself will be unchanging, but its interpretation will. The author has included contemporary cases and other examples that provide the student with an understanding of the applications. It is made clear that there will be subtleties in different jurisdictions and that many of the examples are illustrative in nature. Clarity rating: 5 Criminal Law is an easy read and any terms that would be unfamiliar to the undergraduate student is well defined and used in examples. The exercises throughout the text also offer methods of becoming familiar with the language. Consistency rating: 5 Criminal law is written in a way that is easy to follow and each chapter is laid out in the same fashion which makes the material very easy to navigate. Modularity rating: 5 The chapters are broken up into easy to read subunits and there are several references to other areas of the book if there is a reference that needs to be made. This format makes it easy for the student and instructor to connect material moving forward allowing this book to be more comprehensive. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 The topics were laid out in a way that was easy to follow and permits the student to build on previous information as they read forward. The beginning lays out general information about criminal law and the legal system and then breaks down into more specific elements related to criminal law. Interface rating: 5 All links throughout the book were active and images look clear. The text is laid out in an easy to read format for the computer screen. The text and supplemental materials are extremely user friendly. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 There were no grammatical errors noted throughout the text. The book is easy to follow and well written. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 There was nothing that stood out as anything that may be offensive within the material or the examples. If there were references to cultural differences within examples, it is strictly due to relevance to the issue being discussed. Comments I am excited that there is a simple, easy to read foundational text in criminal law that can be shared with my forensic students. These students may or may not choose law school, but there should be a holistic understanding of how their work fits into the legal system as they go on to play a critical role in the investigation and prosecution of criminal activity. Reviewed by Tracy Barley, Assistant Professor, North Carolina Central University on 2/1/18 This textbook is comprehensive; it is substantially equivalent in content to the published textbook (including its updates) our department has used for the last 10 years. It covers the key concepts that will meet our student learning outcomes. I... read more Reviewed by Tracy Barley, Assistant Professor, North Carolina Central University on 2/1/18 Comprehensiveness rating: 5 see less This textbook is comprehensive; it is substantially equivalent in content to the published textbook (including its updates) our department has used for the last 10 years. It covers the key concepts that will meet our student learning outcomes. I particularly like the End of Chapter material, the Key Takeaway boxes and the Exercises and the inclusion, with links, to supplemental material. I would like to have included a section on White Collar Crimes; we teach this section and incorporate material on bias, implicit bias, sentencing disparities and investigations. Also it would be important to include Cyber Crimes; however, this could be added if the book can be remixed. Content Accuracy rating: 4 The content is accurate based on a random sampling of the material; the links to supplemental worked and that content was unbiased. I also paid attention to the names used in the examples to be certain they were race neutral to avoid any further stereotyping and implicit bias. Relevance/Longevity rating: 4 The content is up-to-date and relevant with the exception of the omission of Cyber Crimes and Financial Crimes; these are codified in all states and some of the fastest growing. Clarity rating: 5 Very clear language and appropriate for mid-level undergraduate students. Consistency rating: 4 Framework is good with the exception of the a couple of Key Takeaway boxes were not consistently formatted in color. Modularity rating: 5 This was excellent! Chunking is a best practice teaching strategy and this format is very conducive to this method. The individual learning objectives at the beginning of each unit and subunit are also helpful for aligning with our course student learning outcomes. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 Nice structure and flow; in a side by side comparison with the text I currently use, it is much more appealing visually and manageable. I especially like that the cases are attached as links to supplemental material rather than embedded in the text. Truly the heavy text based materials often intimidate lower to mid level undergraduate students and may become discouraged depending on their learning styles. Interface rating: 5 The interface is great. I like the differentiation of the colors which signifies a change to students. The colors are also compatible with accessibility and screen reading. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 There were no obvious grammatical errors. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 I liked the relevance and updated content and examples. The Tom DeLay case is one example of a recent event that illustrates crime occurs at all socio economic levels and demographic groups. This is very important for my students as I teach at an HBCU. Comments I appreciate the care taken to create an open source book that is comprehensive, easy to navigate and meets accessibility standards. The color coding makes it easy for undergraduate students to perform a knowledge check after reading the chapter material. Additionally, the multiple formats make it even more accessible for students. Reviewed by B.A.B. ---, Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University on 2/1/18 I would say that this book attempts to cover a broad spectrum of criminal law topics, so in that sense it's comprehensive, but in terms of the depth with which each topic is treated, it is far from comprehensive. The entire textbook actually reads... read more Reviewed by B.A.B. ---, Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University on 2/1/18 Comprehensiveness rating: 1 see less I would say that this book attempts to cover a broad spectrum of criminal law topics, so in that sense it's comprehensive, but in terms of the depth with which each topic is treated, it is far from comprehensive. The entire textbook actually reads more like a study guide or even a professor's lecture notes or slides. When I adopt a textbook, I want it to be comprehensive enough so that I can base my lectures on the chapter topic highlights; here it seems that the author does the opposite. Where I a student, I would think that reading this book would leave me with many more questions than answers. Maybe it's a fundamental difference of paedagogy, but I don't want to spend my classtime filling in all the lacunae left by the students' textbook; rather, I want to spend that classtime expanding on what was presented in the textbook. To me, those are fundamentally different aims. A discussion on "justice" (whatever that means!) is conspicuously absent from this book. This is a substantively different discussion than "purposes of punishment." There is also, as far as I can tell, no discussion of how to read a case citation. That's so important! Because citations tell you so much important information about a case! I'm surprised, because this sort of a standard sub-topic in a criminal law class, especially when students are asked to brief cases. The "purposes of punishment" section is but one of many sections that has been glossed over. There should probably be a section comparing retributive and utilitarian schools of thought (actually, I see nothing referring to "utilitarianism" now that I think of it) and giving concrete examples. Generally speaking, I think it would be helpful to have examples from case law throughout the book to illustrate how concepts apply. Case law is rich with great examples, which are conspicuously absent. Content Accuracy rating: 3 Some of the topics warrant more in-depth treatment. The discussion of various punishment justifications is pretty superficial; incapacitation, for example, encompasses a whole lot more than just "prevent[ing] future crime by removing the defendant from society." It's also factually incorrect that house arrest—one of the examples given— removes the defendant from society; on the contrary, it's an alternative community-oriented sanction intended to keep the offender out in the community!? Relevance/Longevity rating: 4 This book sidesteps the longevity issue because it doesn't make any references to case law, so there's no way the case law could become outdated if not altogether obsolete. Clarity rating: 4 The book essentially is consistently cursory, does that count? No seriously... I do think it somewhat odd that some topics are treated in more detail than others (e.g., criminal homicide has its own chapter). But then subsequent chapters are organized like most state criminal codes (e.g. property crimes, crimes against the person, etc). I would have put criminal homicide into a broader "crimes against persons" chapter heading to be consistent with subsequent chapters. The way subject matter is presented is both unclear and inconsistent which makes it confusing. Is that why robbery is classed with property crimes? Because a large number of states actually consider robbery a crime against persons, not property, but there's no personal crimes chapter, so I guess that's why robbery was put in with property crimes. Consistency rating: 2 The book is consistently cursory, does that count? No seriously... I do think it somewhat odd that some topics are treated in more detail than others (e.g., criminal homicide has its own chapter). But then subsequent chapters are organized like most state criminal codes (e.g. property crimes, crimes against the person, etc.) I would have put criminal homicide into a broader "crimes against persons" chapter heading to be consistent with subsequent chapters. The way subject matter is presented is both unclear and inconsistent which makes it confusing. Is that why robbery is classed with property crimes? Because a large number of states actually consider robbery a crime against persons, not property, but there's no personal crimes chapter, so I guess that's why robbery was put in with property crimes. Modularity rating: 3 There is a general flow from one chapter to the next, and the chapters are so brief that it would be easy to assign small reading sections. as regards "self-referencing," I don't actually see a single source citation anywhere in here so I guess "self-referencing" isn't an issue either? Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 2 I think some of the topic ordering is a little counterintuitive, at least to me, and so is how some of the topics are grouped. Affirmative defenses of Justification and excuse seem to be conflated here, and there are actually a number of really important substantive differences between the two categories. If you run a textbook search for "affirmative," interestingly, the term doesn't even pop up in either chapter on criminal defenses. I do really like the exercises presented in each chapter, especially the ones in which students have to read a scenario and determine some point of law discussed in the chapter. When I was learning to teach at the undergraduate level, a wise professor once told me that the hardest thing in teaching would be to come up with lots and lots of examples, because those are what help students best identify and begin to apply the law. Interface rating: 4 I didn't experience any navigational difficulties Grammatical Errors rating: 5 I didn't notice any glaring errors. Cultural Relevance rating: 2 No examples, so no problems of potential offensiveness makes little if any effort to connect subject matter with broader cultural context. Comments I wouldn't adopt this textbook for a college course. As it reads more like a superficial study guide, it maybe more appropriate for high school readers. My general impression is that it doesn't effectively equip students with the requisite knowledge they should have taking a criminal law class. Everything in it seems pretty "dumbed down." I hate to say that, but that's really my overall impression. The subject matter is just not done detail than others (e.g., criminal homicide has its own chapter). My first more specific impression opening this e-Book, though, is that the table of contents is not appropriately detailed. Without a detailed TOC as a "road map" through the book, it's hard for me to assess whether the book actually addresses each criminal law sub-topic in appropriate order and depth... because no information whatsoever is provided that would tell me anything about topic order and depth! It's also hard for me to see how one concept connects with the preceding and following. I see that a somewhat cursory TOC has been added as a tab on the righthand side of the text, but I have to say, it's awfully superficial. Section 1.7 is called "End-of-Chapter Material." What does that refer to? Section 1.6, "Sources of Law," could mean any number of things (e.g., common law? Case law? Precedent? English legal heritage? Administrative regulations? Constitutions? Stare decisis? Statutory law? Codification? And so forth). If I were a student trying to locate a particular sub-topic in the book, the TOC isn't much help. We all know that students have limited attention spans these days, so whatever can be done to make the topics more readily accessible and easy to locate would be helpful though. My second impression opening this e-book is... bursting out laughing at the contents of the first page page, "Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminal Law." I find the picture of a "Dodge Charger with a Police Package" to be a really bizarre photo to introduce a criminal law textbook. What is the point of that? Is this an "intro to policing" book? The picture isn't even comprehensively illustrative of a criminal law textbook, anyway. I don't get it. I am also raising my eyebrows at the citation of the case quote on the right margin, the quote attributed to "Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr." Come on now, this is NOT how we cite to cases by any stretch of the imagination, regardless of whether you're a lawyer, academic, or student at any level. If you're not going to provide the entire citation—which is really what should have been done here, because it contains a lot of important information—at least do the slightly less lazy party 1 v. party 2 (year). Overall the first page looks to me like a pretty sophomoric attempt at starting Chapter 1. It doesn't in any way draw my interest, and the photo and citation chosen to introduce both the chapter and entire textbook are puzzling. I am having a hard time understanding how those are illustrative of what's to come in the chapter. All I can deduce is that the author has some kind of preoccupation with cars, given the dodge charger and BMW references!? The first page of Chapter 1 sets the tone for the rest of the book, and as such, if I were a student I would be reticent to slog through my further reading. Reviewed by Anne Douds, Lecturer, Penn State Harrisburg on 2/1/18 This introductory criminal law text covers almost all major areas of criminal law, but it would be nice if it covered the evolving fields of terrorism and cyber security a bit better. The table of contents is concise and provides useful... read more Reviewed by Anne Douds, Lecturer, Penn State Harrisburg on 2/1/18 This introductory criminal law text covers almost all major areas of criminal law, but it would be nice if it covered the evolving fields of terrorism and cyber security a bit better. The table of contents is concise and provides useful navigation. The lesson content is a bit brief and simplistic, but it is suitable for an undergraduate introduction to criminal law class. Content Accuracy rating: 4 The book uses neutral language, but the undertone of the content leans towards a civil rights/civil libertarian perspective. Relevance/Longevity rating: 4 Fortunately, criminal law evolves slowly, so this text should have good longevity. It does not cover much criminal procedure, but the portions of it that deal with procedure could become dated in the event of a major, reformative Supreme Court opinion (which is true of all criminal procedure texts). Clarity rating: 4 Clarity is good. The book uses short, concise sentences. The format makes it easy to follow. Consistency rating: 4 The formatting and content are consistent. The degree of difficulty of the content remains at the same level throughout the work. Modularity rating: 5 The book is divided into logical, easy-to-follow modules. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 The book has natural flow and is organized in a very appropriate fashion. Interface rating: 4 So far as I can tell, the interface is fine. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 I did not catch any errors. Cultural Relevance rating: 4 The book stays within the middle of the political spectrum, with a slight tendency towards libertarian views. Reviewed by Makeda Carr, Instructor, Virginia State University on 6/20/17 Reviewing the TOC provides a comprehensive overview of the subject matter found in typical Criminal Law textbooks. In comparison to another book, they cover the same material such as sources and limitations of law, jurisdiction and defining... read more Reviewed by Makeda Carr, Instructor, Virginia State University on 6/20/17 Comprehensiveness rating: 5 see less Reviewing the TOC provides a comprehensive overview of the subject matter found in typical Criminal Law textbooks. In comparison to another book, they cover the same material such as sources and limitations of law, jurisdiction and defining... read more Content Accuracy rating: 5 This text utilizes reliable sourced information that are accessible in the text to check for accuracy. I believe the book is presented in a neutral manner and is unbiased. Relevance/Longevity rating: 5 The information has a mixed of old and new content indicative of various criminal law books. Different types of dated content are being used in application of law and diverse decisions by judicial bodies. Clarity rating: 5 Clarity in the text comes from the chunked structure, followed by practical examples and exercises. Consistency rating: 5 Yes. This book is consistent with the learning objectives, content and exercises to teach the subject matter. Modularity rating: 5 This book is complied nicely. Instead of reading a very long page of information online, the sections were divided by subject matter and thoroughly covered content in a succinctly. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 A gradual intensity in content organization flowed well comparable to other texts. Interface rating: 5 Structurally, the text was easy to navigate and read. The charts and images were not distorted or disrupting. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 I did not identify any grammatical errors. Cultural Relevance rating: 4 I did not get a sense that the book was culturally insensitive. The focus of the text was an introduction to the topic of criminal law and is neutral in its presentation of cases and facts. Comments I appreciate the unnamed author taking their time to write such a comprehensive text. Reviewed by Stephone Addison, Assistant Professor, Southern University And A & M College on 6/20/17 The text is comprehensive. I have been teaching Criminal Law for over 20 years and have used several textbooks. This Open Source text covers, for the most part, every major subject in Criminal Law that was covered in prior textbooks that I have... read more Reviewed by Stephone Addison, Assistant Professor, Southern University And A & M College on 6/20/17 Comprehensiveness rating: 4 see less The text is comprehensive. I have been teaching Criminal Law for over 20 years and have used several textbooks. This Open Source text covers, for the most part, every major subject in Criminal Law that was covered in prior textbooks that I have used. It must be noted, however, that every major subject in Criminal Law that was covered in prior textbooks that I have used in the past. Although the book appear to lack a traditional index and glossary separate in the book, there are lots of information, links to other websites, etc to provide plenty of information regarding key terms and concepts. Content Accuracy rating: 4 The content in this textbook appears to be accurate. It provides many references (i.e., Books, Cases, Articles, Websites, etc.) many of which are used in most private industry textbooks of this kind. Relevance/Longevity rating: 4 The Content in this text is taken primarily from 2012. Since it is now 2017, it is probably due for an update. Notwithstanding, a lot of the material used is still relevant for understanding Criminal Law concepts. The good thing here is that it appears to be a relatively easy process to update information which can make for an easy transition from old to new and thereby strengthening the longevity of the overall text. Clarity rating: 5 The book is written in plain language that allows for clarity of information. It is relatively concise, straight forward and appears to be very user friendly for undergraduate students. Also, the book provides many examples and figures (visual aids and diagrams) that further explains many of the terms (technical and otherwise) for better understanding. Consistency rating: 5 The text is, for the most part, consistent throughout in terms of the order or layout from chapter to chapter. Each chapter is consistent in its presentation (i.e., key areas of discussion subtitled under each chapter, objectives are provided for each subtitles and key concepts relevant to each subtitle). Also, diagrams, charts & figures are consistent in each chapter. Modularity rating: 5 Again, the book is arranged in a modular format via chapter and sections. Each chapter are broken down into sections which include relevant terms and concepts that directs back to the chapter. These sections allow the reader to keep learning and comprehension focused without running the risk of losing the chapter's objectives. The text allows for the students to learn in manageable section which can make for an easy transition from old to new and thereby strengthening the longevity of the overall text. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 This book displays good organization, structure and flow. The organization of the chapters pursuant to criminal law subjects are relatively consistent with other texts that I have used in the past. The table of contents could have been better placed at the top of chapter 1, but not a deal breaker as far as organization is concerned. The structure is good, particularly, the alignment of the charts, graphs, illustrations, videos, etc. Finally, the chapters provide a favorable flow from one area of criminal law to the next. Each chapter conclude with an "End-of-Chapter Material." Interface rating: 4 I didn't see any major problems with how the text interfaced with the reader. In some spots, I was not able to get back right away to original page after clicking on some of the illustrations. I had to go totally out of the page and back to downloads to get back into the text. Could be an issue with my computer and not just are. Also, some links didn't work and needed to be updated. However, a lot of the links did work. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 I didn't really encounter any substantial amount of grammatical errors. Again, some of the links perhaps need to be updated and/or refreshed. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 I didn't detect any major problems here. Appeared to contain common issues relative to Criminal Law and Criminal Justice that may create some controversial discussion, but nothing appearing to be unbiased, culturally or otherwise. Comments I thought this textbook was overall informative and covered the major topics, relative to Criminal Law, that are consistent with the topics in many of the leading textbooks for purchase and that I have used before. In conclusion, this book appears to be a good textbook overall based on the above reasons provided in the review above and one that I may consider recommending to others. Reviewed by Christina Mancini, Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University on 4/11/17 The text appears comprehensive but the lack of a Table of Contents page makes it difficult to assess at first glance the scope of the work. read more Reviewed by Christina Mancini, Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University on 4/11/17 Comprehensiveness rating: 5 see less The text appears comprehensive but the lack of a Table of Contents page makes it difficult to assess at first glance the scope of the work. Content Accuracy rating: 5 It appeared very well researched. Relevance/Longevity rating: 5 It is written in a way that it could be easily updated to reflect new law. The author maintains a celebrated case of Casey Anthony to illustrate circumstantial and direct evidence. I can see such concepts being made relevant by a switch to the case du jour. Clarity rating: 5 Great writing. Consistency rating: 3 Decent, but again my concern was involving some of the findings and the lack of TOC. Modularity rating: 5 I think it has modularity. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 3 Good, but a TOC would have helped organize the general framing better. Interface rating: 5 The interface was well done. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 Excellent. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 The text was inclusive and relevant for today's criminal justice system debates and controversies. Comments I would have liked to know the author and the TOC should have been displayed at the front point. That said, great work! Reviewed by Shana Mell, Criminal Justice Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University on 2/8/17 Criminal law textbooks require a number of specific topics in order to meet the expectations of the course. This textbook contains those essential elements. The table of contents very clearly outlines each chapters and subsection so that... read more Reviewed by Shana Mell, Criminal Justice Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University on 2/8/17 Comprehensiveness rating: 5 see less Criminal law textbooks require a number of specific topics in order to meet the expectations of the course. This textbook contains those essential elements. The table of contents very clearly outlines each chapters and subsection so that... read more Content Accuracy rating: 5 The content is unbiased and accurate. An appendix contains a listing of relevant cited case law citations for further review. There does not appear to be a glossary or index apart from the appendix but each chapter concludes with an "End of Chapter" section that lists answers to exercises, questions, case listings, summaries, and links to applicable cases, articles, and websites. Content Accuracy rating: 5 This text follows the format allows for efficient updates, as necessary. The author utilizes examples that will be of interest for a number of years. Clarity rating: 5 This is where a number of criminal law/procedure texts fall short. This was one of the text's key strengths. The text was extremely accessible to undergraduate students. It contained excellent explanations that illustrated each of the main concepts. I especially enjoyed the author's writing style. I found the prose both well-written and conversational, which contributes to the strength of this text. The presentation of the material throughout each chapter was complemented by interesting examples and critical thinking exercises that encourage application of the material. Consistency rating: 5 This text followed a consistent framework throughout. Each chapter was laid out in the established format containing each of the content areas. The material was presented with applicable exercises and questions throughout. Each chapter concludes with an "End of Chapter" section that lists answers to exercises, questions, case listings, summaries, and links to applicable cases, articles, and websites. I found the summaries and exercises especially useful. Keywords are italicized for emphasis and quick reference. The chapters were easy to follow as they contained a number of subheadings to keep the material organized. Further, each chapter is made up of specific learning objectives that can be easily assigned based on content areas within the course. Modularity rating: 5 Each chapter is made up of specific learning objectives that can be easily assigned based on content areas within the course. These objectives are fairly brief and contain exercises and reference material at the conclusion. I found this approach to be a key strength of this text since it offers a framework for assignment creation and discussion that would connect well to how many learning objectives are actually contained within the entire text, there are hundreds of links to websites with reference material and exercises that students can complete independently or as part of a classroom discussion. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 This text followed a consistent framework throughout. Each chapter was laid out in the established format containing each of the content areas. The material was presented with applicable exercises and questions throughout. Each chapter concludes with an "End of Chapter" section that lists answers to exercises, questions, case listings, summaries, and links to applicable cases, articles, and websites. I found the summaries and exercises especially useful. I also enjoyed the pictures, graphics, and illustrations used to develop the material. Each objective contains an interesting component entitled "key takeaways" that lists a sentence or two describing the main points to recall. Interface rating: 5 I checked a number of the links within the text and they all worked for me. I also used the table of contents to navigate through the text and was able to get to each section very easy. The table of contents and home buttons appear on the upper right corner and allow the reader to quickly locate the area that they need. The table of contents lists each chapter and unit by number and title

(topic) for ease of use. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 I do not recall noticing any grammatical errors. This is exceptionally important since a textbook and author lose credibility when there are a number of grammatical issues. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 I found no culturally insensitive or offensive examples presented within this text. Comments I would certainly adopt this text. I found it as sufficient as any other criminal law text offered for purchase. In some areas (noted above as key strengths), it is superior to texts that I have read/used. I enjoyed reading through this text and plan to adopt it if/when I teach this course in the future. Reviewed by Caoimhin OFearghail, Program Coordinator, Lane Community College on 8/21/16 This text covers all of the basic concepts found in other traditional criminal law survey texts with the exception of an instructional overview on reading and interpreting case reports—a significant shortcoming given the author's heavy use of... read more Reviewed by Caoimhin OFearghail, Program Coordinator, Lane Community College on 8/21/16 Comprehensiveness rating: 4 see less This text covers all of the basic concepts found in other traditional criminal law survey texts with the exception of an instructional overview on reading and interpreting case reports—a significant shortcoming given the author's heavy use of external links to such reports. Though the text lacks both an index and a glossary, these are unnecessary in a searchable electronic document. A table of contents is likewise unnecessary in a PDF in which bookmarks have been added to navigate the contents of the text. Such is the case here; however the text, by default, should open with the bookmarks displayed. The lack of these traditional elements would only be inconvenient for the undoubtedly small percentage of students who prefer to print the whole book. Content Accuracy rating: 5 Bearing in mind that the purpose of the text is to provide a broad overview of the subject for undergraduate students, the key concepts and summaries are accurate. Relevance/Longevity rating: 4 Periodic updates will be necessary due to developments in both statutory and case law. The extensive use of links to external sites might pose a problem should the site addresses change. Clarity rating: 5 The author's vocabulary is appropriate to an undergraduate audience, and the author's liberal use of simple sentences results in a very clear and accessible writing style. New terms are clearly introduced to the reader and subsequently integrated into the text; however, the author identifies these new terms inconsistently (see Consistency below). Consistency rating: 4 The text is consistent in terms of both its visual and stylistic presentation, but less so in its introduction of key terms, which the author introduces or uses in italics, bold, and blue with no discernible purpose. The blue font, though more eye-catching, is confusing at times because it is also used extensively throughout the text for hyperlinks. To compound the confusion, the author chose not to underline these links. Modularity rating: 5 The text is obviously designed as an integrated whole but could, with little effort, be rearranged to suit criminal law surveys of varied lengths or to suit an instructor's specific approach. The chapters and sections also lend themselves for use as selected readings. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 4 The author has organized the text in a manner that will be familiar anyone who has every used a survey text in substantive criminal law. The first half (comprising eight chapters) covers the "general part" of criminal law, providing an overview of the historical, theoretical and functional context of criminal law in the United States; its structure; its constitutional limitations; and its attendant concepts of criminal offenses, liability, complicity, and inchoate crimes. The second half (comprising the remaining five chapters), covers the "special part" of the criminal law—an overview of the most common criminal offenses arranged by type or family: criminal homicide, sex offenses and crimes involving force or fear, crimes against property, public order crimes, and crimes against the government. The sequential progression of this content is appropriate and the amount of space given to each topic is balanced for the most part though the author spends more time explaining the legal system than the traditional criminal law survey text. Interface rating: 2 The author has included a significant number of graphic embellishments (to set of ancillary material from the body of the text) and graphic aids. Neither add much to the text and both are stylistically problematic—making too much use of unnecessary colors and graphic effects as well as contributing to a number of odd page breaks throughout the text. Some of the graphic aids are too complicated. Others employ an inappropriate graphic layout for the information being presented. For instance, on pages 46-48, the author uses three hierarchical charts to depict the nation's tripartite system of government. What each chart actually depicts, however, is the bifurcated nature of the nation's federal and state governments. As a result, the chart on page 47 seems to suggest that both the federal and state governments fall under a larger "executive." Overall, the text would be better served by a more sparing use of graphic aids and embellishments. Some of the information might be better presented/summarized in a simple table format. The remaining charts would be more appealing and easier to comprehend if they were re-done in simple, black and white, line art. The graphics used to set ancillary materials (such as the "Crack the Code" exercises) should be removed and those materials set off by a pastel background (as the author has done elsewhere) or by a simple line border, and a different font. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 There were a few minor errors in grammar and punctuation—no glaring problems—and overall it was quite grammatically solid. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 Not applicable. Comments In its current form, most instructors will find that the text has too many shortcomings to be acceptable as a stand-alone survey text for an undergraduate course in criminal law; however, the text's strengths—it's clear, concise prose and topical comprehensiveness—make it an attractive candidate for use as a supplementary reference text. Reviewed by Ann Su, Part-time Instructor, Portland Community College on 1/7/16 This is an excellent introductory text for undergraduates.The textbook does a good job of introducing the basic legal concepts of criminal law, but it would not be appropriate for a law school course as it does not have the depth or technical .... read more Reviewed by Ann Su, Part-time Instructor, Portland Community College on 1/7/16 Comprehensiveness rating: 3 see less This is an excellent introductory text for undergraduates.The textbook does a good job of introducing the basic legal concepts of criminal law, but it would not be appropriate for a law school course as it does not have the depth or technical . However, there is not a table of contents, index or glossary incorporated into the body of the text. This makes it rather difficult to navigate from section to section without having to scroll up and down unnecessarily through text to find things. Content Accuracy rating: 5 The book has an accurate presentation of general information given that the book is not meant to be a treatise in law school. Relevance/Longevity rating: 4 Most of the content is up-to-date and will not be obsolete quickly. However, there are external links that may expire and that may require vigilance by the instructor in ensuring the currency of the link. Updates should be relatively easy as the text is written in a modular way. Clarity rating: 5 The book is written in a concise way that is extremely "user friendly" with accessible prose. The jargon/technical terminology is very approachable with good examples that are concrete and relatable to an undergraduate student. The usage of visual aids and formatting techniques to emphasize different concepts further aids the reader's understanding. Consistency rating: 5 The text is internally consistent in style, terminology, formatting and presentation of information. Modularity rating: 4 The text is written in a modular way that would be easy to reorganize without any disruption to the reader. If left in its current form, the text would benefit from subheadings that are numbered into even more specific subsets with indentations. e.g. 1.1(a)(ii) rather than 1.1. This would aid the reader in tracking concepts/linking of concepts substantively and organizationally. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 The organization, structure and flow of the material is one of the greatest strengths of the book. It has a natural sequence that is appealing and logical. Interface rating: 2 This is the most challenging aspect of the text because of the lack of the table of contexts/index and glossary, navigation is a serious issue if not read sequentially. Images and charts are often distorted and the text is not always formatted in the most readable style—the consistent spacing of text is monotonous to the eye. Varying the paragraph and sentence spacing as well as ensuring page breaks and headings are logically placed is essential and missing in the text. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 The grammar is fine with no noticeable errors. Cultural Relevance rating: 4 The text is culturally appropriate. Reviewed by Matthew Kane, Adjunct Professor, University of Oklahoma on 1/12/15 The author's work itself is very strong. The book is topically sound, covering the appropriate subjects for an introduction to criminal law. Unfortunately, there is no index or glossary (or table of contents within the text). This concern,... read more Reviewed by Matthew Kane, Adjunct Professor, University of Oklahoma on 1/12/15 Comprehensiveness rating: 3 see less The author's work itself is very strong. The book is topically sound, covering the appropriate subjects for an introduction to criminal law. Unfortunately, there is no index or glossary (or table of contents within the text). This concern, along with other issues I have with the text, are issues that should be resolved through the editing process. Unfortunately, these two components are covered in the same evaluation - comprehensiveness - resulting in a mediocre rating when the review would be better served to have highest marks for coverage and lowest marks for index/glossary/etc. Content Accuracy rating: 5 Legal texts, by nature, are always subject to criticism/dissection of particular case analysis, etc. However, this book deals with broad concepts appropriately. Relevance/Longevity rating: 4 Criminal law is always evolving. However, the core concepts provided in this text have and should continue to stand the test of time. My only concern would be with the number of hyperlinks utilized throughout the book (which intentionally utilizes links over the inclusion of extensive case excerpts), as even the most "stable" of sites occasionally change resulting in an inability to easily access referenced information. If adopting the text, I would consider saving all hyperlinked materials to a location over which the professor has control, thereby ensuring students would have access for the duration of the course. Clarity rating: 5 The book's clarity is one of its strongest features. The author does an excellent job of writing in understandable language with careful discussion and explanation of key technical terms. Consistency rating: 5 The book is consistent in its approach, terminology and depth of treatment of the covered topics. Modularity rating: 4 The book is arranged by chapter and then section - i.e., Chapter 9 is comprised of Sections 9.1 (Homicide), 9.2 (Murder), 9.3 (First-Degree Murder), 9.4 (Felony Murder), 9.5 (Second Degree Murder), 9.6 (Manslaughter), 9.7 (End-of-Chapter Material). The logical use of such section numbers allows for shorter assignment of readings. Again, I would note that the book would benefit significantly from the inclusion of a detailed table of contents to allow the professor and/or student to more easily appreciate the organization and potential for reorganization or sub-chapter assignments. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 The book provides a basic introduction of criminal law, the US legal system and its constitutional protections before delving into traditional areas of coverage in a criminal law text – general elements of and defenses to a crime and specific offenses. As discussed in the previous response, the chapters are broken down into logical sections. Interface rating: 2 The book's interface is one of its most disappointing features. Page breaks are often in the wrong place, fonts and spacing are inconsistent and many of the charts and illustrations are fuzzy and difficult to read. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 I noticed several very minor grammatical issues but overall it was very well written. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 The cultural relevance is appropriate for the course. Comments As a result of the "star" ratings system, this review may appear to be very positive. Indeed, the author should be applauded for creating a very strong manuscript appropriate for undergraduate students (and law students seeking to supplement their understanding of criminal law issues). Unfortunately, the text, as currently available, is extremely difficult to fully utilize given the lack of table of contents, index and glossary and the obvious need for a final polish to correct page breaks, font inconsistencies, and blurry charts. A professor interested in adopting this book should anticipate devoting significant time to revising and editing for use in his or her course -- work which could ultimately be broadly disseminated pursuant to the creative commons licensing. Absent such efforts, students would inevitably appreciate the difference in this open textbook and a traditional one, likely to their detriment. Reviewed by Ronald Den Otter, Associate Professor, California Polytechnic State University on 7/15/14 For a text aimed at undergraduates, very comprehensive; it covers all of the topics in criminal law that ought to be covered. read more Reviewed by Ronald Den Otter, Associate Professor, California Polytechnic State University on 7/15/14 Comprehensiveness rating: 5 see less For a text aimed at undergraduates, very comprehensive; it covers all of the topics in criminal law that ought to be covered. Content Accuracy rating: 4 Here and there, one could quibble with descriptions of the legal rules and concepts or w/ the description of cases but all-in-all, it's accurate. Relevance/Longevity rating: 5 Definitely not out-of-date. The book provides plenty of contemporary examples and refers to new cases. Of course, at some point in the future, a new edition would be appropriate. Clarity rating: 5 Probably its best feature. extremely easy to follow. I also liked the flow charts. Consistency rating: 5 No problems at all. In fact, good transitions from one topic to the next and the book (and each chapter) were well-organized. Modularity rating: 5 Please see comment above. Again, I thought that it was easy to read. There were not large pieces of text that were hard to swallow. Organization/Structure/Flow rating: 5 I thought that the organization made sense. Some topics ought to be introduced before others. The introduction did a good job of setting up the rest of the book. Interface rating: 5 No problems at all. Grammatical Errors rating: 5 Extremely well-written. Cultural Relevance rating: 5 Again, absolutely no problems here. Comments It's hard to write a textbook about any legal topic that would be appropriate for undergraduates. from my experience, most existing textbooks are either too detailed (for law students) or too simplistic (almost as if they're written for high school students). This book strikes the right balance. It's as good as any other text on criminal law that I've encountered so far. Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminal Law Chapter 2: The Legal System in the United States Chapter 3: Constitutional Protections Chapter 4: The Elements of a Crime Chapter 5: Criminal Defenses, Part 1 Chapter 6: Criminal Defenses, Part 2 Chapter 7: Parties to Crime Chapter 8: Inchoate Offenses Chapter 9: Criminal Homicide Chapter 10: Sex Offenses and Crimes Involving Force, Fear, and Physical Restraint Chapter 11: Crimes against Property Chapter 12: Crimes against the Public Chapter 13: Crimes against the Government Chapter 14: Appendix A: Case Listings Submit ancillary resource Criminal Law uses a two-step process to augment learning, called the applied approach. First, after building a strong foundation from scratch, Criminal Law introduces you to crimes and defenses that have been broken down into separate components. It is so much easier to memorize and comprehend the subject matter when it is simplified this way. However, becoming proficient in the law takes more than just memorization. You must be trained to take the laws you have studied and apply them to various fact patterns. Most students are expected to do this automatically, but application might be seen, experienced, and practiced before it comes naturally. Thus the second step of the applied approach is reviewing examples of the application of law to facts after dissecting and analyzing each legal concept. Some of the examples come from cases, and some are purely fictional. All the examples are memorable, even quirky, so they will stick in your mind and be available when you need them the most (like during an exam). After a few chapters, you will notice that you no longer obsess over an explanation that doesn't completely make sense the first time you read it—you will just skip to the example. The examples clarify the principles for you, lightening the workload significantly. Suggest an edit to this book record