UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

LAW CENTER

CRIMINAL LAW
COURSE EVALUATION – SUMMARY

Summer 2020
Course Number: Law 5303
Professor: Zachary D. Kaufman, J.D., Ph.D.

Below are ratings and illustrative quotations from student evaluations of this course, which was taught online in 3-hour evening sessions over the course of 4 weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Course Evaluation: This rating combined prompts about how much the student learned relative to other law courses, whether the course will make the student a better lawyer, whether the student would recommend the course to other students, the amount of reading and preparation the course required, and the difficulty of the course's subject matter. The students' average rating of the overall quality of this course—on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 meaning "Outstanding"—was a 4.47.

Instructor Evaluation: This rating combined prompts about whether the instructor was well prepared, demonstrated respect for all students, effectively communicated information, and was available for individual assistance. The students' average rating of the overall teaching effectiveness of this instructor—on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 meaning "Outstanding"—was a 4.57.

Illustrative quotations: The following are quotations (including capitalizations) from the descriptive portion of the evaluations:

- "Prof Kaufman was the best professor I've taken so far at UHLC. He made me interested in Criminal Law, and every day I learned something new and exciting."
- "Dr. Kaufman was outstanding! He is a great professor and an asset to UHLC."
- "I learned a tremendous amount. Professor Kaufman is a stellar professor, and an all around nice person who is accessible and easy to talk to. I truly enjoyed this class."
- "Professor Kaufman created the best structured online course that I've experienced."
- "This was by far the best course I've taken post-COVID."
- "Great professor and course."
- "Great class and look forward to taking another of Professor Kaufman's courses again."
- "Professor Kaufman is a distinguished scholar in criminal law and his depth of knowledge enriched my learning experience of the materials. He did a great job of facilitating the discussion, keeping us focused on the topics at hand while adding his insights on the policy and the context of the cases when appropriate. He was very well organized, making it easy to follow the lecture. Professor Kaufman is also a great teacher. He showed that he cared a great deal about our learning by keeping a constant feedback loop, remaining very open to students' suggestions, and always trying to make his course better. He made concrete changes to the course based on mid[-semester] review students' feedback, which I thought was effective in improving the latter half of the class. I felt encouraged to ask him or the TAs any question at anytime. . . . I really enjoyed the class and learned a lot. I felt confident I am able to tackle bar exam questions."
- "I love this course so much that I am rethinking which field of law I want to lean to. As you have said, our criminal system is flawed, and I am glad to know there are great professors like you to advocate change. Thank you again!"
- "Professor Kaufman is great – very respectful, very insightful on the course material and law in general, well prepared for every interaction, and had a genuine care for each of his student's well being. Great addition to

University of Houston Law Center and look forward to more interactions with Professor Kaufman in future classes."

- "Professor Kaufman was top notch at conducting class in a distance learning setting. Professor Kaufman utilized multiple features in Zoom to keep the class interactive and engaging such as the breakout rooms, polls, and the chat. Other professors should sit in one of Professor's classes to observe how well he conducts a distance learning course, or some training sessions by Professor Kaufman on the online technologies would be helpful to other professors."
- "Amazing professor and the conversation was always amazing!"
- "Professor Kaufman, this course could not have been any better than this. Thank you for making it fun and easy to learn! . . . Great experience! Thank you"
- "I enjoyed this class even though it was challenging. Professor Kaufman pushed us to critically think about issues and criminal law in general. I do think this class will help me become a better lawyer."
- "Genuinely cares about subject matter and the students."
- "Great enthusiasm . . . . Phenomenal use of technology and Zoom."
- "Professor Kaufman utilized Zoom to its fullest capacity with breakout rooms and polls and he genuinely tried to make the class as interactive as possible given our remote conditions. I think he did a great job and I think honestly his style of Zoom beats some of my in-person experiences in class because it was so focused and curated."
- "Professor Kaufman did a fantastic job using Zoom."
- "Professor Kaufman genuinely cares for his students . . . . Additionally, Professor Kaufman does a wonderful job with technology, especially in light of the difficulties during COVID . . . . I also enjoyed that he shared his research with us and connected the material to cases and problems that have occurred outside of the casebook."
- "Professor Kaufman was incredibly prepared, informed, and apt to teach our Criminal Law even during COVID times. He broke the material down into easy to digest lessons and had a number of ways to engage the class despite being remote. His experience and knowledge in the field added an extra layer to the material, and on occasion supplemented the book materials when information was lacking. He handled the sensitive materials of this course with a great sense of respect for all students and valued every opinion."
- "Excellent professor. Catered to the needs of the students. Very organized and kept us engaged throughout the semester."
- "Prof. Kaufman was well prepared to discuss the material in depth and effectively led the class despite the challenges of the virtual learning format and the shortened summer class period."
- "I really enjoyed Professor Kaufman's interactive approach to teaching. Breakout rooms and information outside of the text book were also a plus."
- "I really enjoyed how professional the professor was. I also enjoyed that he kept students engaged in an online environment by utilizing a variety of strategies in presenting material in every single session. There was [a] mixture of lecture, group break out sessions, and polling."
- "Professor Kaufman was very effective in making the students think deeply about and critically discuss with each other the subject matter of the course. He brought the students to a very high level of engagement with the material and I've appreciated it very much. . . . I look forward to taking additional courses taught by him in the future."
- "I appreciated his ability to handle distractions and even make them feel less awkward. For example, I have a little girl who occasionally popped into my video feed. The professor welcomed her and allowed her to speak for a moment and then let me continue with my class related response."