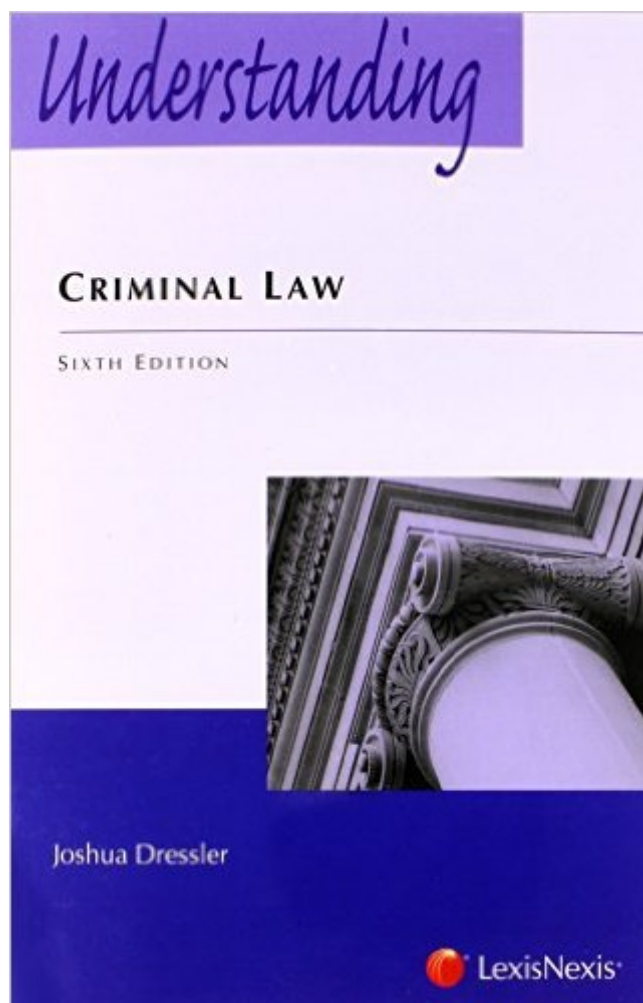


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Understanding Criminal Law, 6th Edition



Synopsis

This comprehensive and clearly written Understanding treatise is frequently cited by scholars and courts in their analysis of substantive criminal law. Understanding Criminal Law is designed to be taught in conjunction with any casebook. The topics covered are those most often raised in criminal law casebooks, and coverage of these subjects is meant to complement professors' classroom discussions. The text focuses on the basic elements of, and defenses to, specific crimes such as homicide, rape, and theft, group criminality, and inchoate liability. Understanding Criminal Law also covers theories of punishment, sources of the criminal law, and overarching principles such as legality and proportionality. The common law is emphasized with extensive comparisons to the Model Penal Code and thoughtful examination of the underpinnings of the utilitarian philosophies of substantive criminal law. The text of Understanding Criminal Law encourages students to consider the approach these philosophies would take to a particular matter under discussion, thus providing an excellent learning tool for gaining a firm understanding of how our criminal justice system works.

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Customer Reviews

Best criminal law supplement available. Unlike those 1000 page monstrosities you need to start reading 2 years before you even enroll in law school to use (I'm looking at you, Chemerinsky), this one breaks complicated subjects down into easy-to-understand explanations that you can read 24 hours before the exam and still find incredibly useful. Not that I'm speaking from personal experience or anything...Save yourself some headaches trying to understand the difference between conspiracy and accomplice liability on your own and buy/rent it now.

My Crim law professor provided very little feedback in the course of his class. Thus, it was very hard to get discrepancies in understanding sorted out, and our casebook was less than helpful; focusing more on state case law instead of the MPC or Common Law. This book was lent to one of my study-partners by one of his good friends that had CALI'd his Crim law class at another law school. Well my study-partner let me use the book and I ended up reading it pretty much from cover to cover, it was a great book and very useful at supplementing the information we learned in class. I used it to create a detailed outline for my study group and we all did very well in the class and I ultimately received the CALI award for highest grade in Criminal Law. I really do attribute that award to this book. It was great! And as a result I am now a Research Assistant for that professor. So all in all, very helpful book! The only disappointment with the book was that (if I remember correctly) the book didn't cover one topic at all, and I think that was entrapment ... just a little weird.

If your Crim Law professor uses the Dressler book than this supplement follows it greatly and does an amazing job of clearing up parts in the textbook that can be confusing. However, if you don't have the Dressler casebook i don't know how helpful this supplement would be. It does a great job at explaining topics but it really follows the casebook so I highly recommend if you have the casebook but if you have another book I would compare table of contents.

I had a horrible professor. Horrible. Nice enough, but can't teach. I wish I'd started teaching myself from this earlier. Still, I think I'll pass my final and I only had five days buckling down with this. If you teach yourself from it from the start, you will go far, probably acing the class if you're serious and smart about it. I liked this one better than Lafave, but either will do. This seems to be more reader friendly.

I think the black letter outline is sufficient, but, if you are having an issue with a certain topic then this goes into greater depth. It also helps with the understanding of why things are the way they are rather than just telling you as the black letter law book does

The whole understanding series is my go-to for finals review. This one especially is great because it simply and directly explains the different theories of punishment. Without using cases (Except to paraphrase the most important ones) it gives you the nuts and bolts of crim law in a way that is easy to understand without sacrificing depth.

It was helpful, but I would suggest waiting until you get your Syllabus for Crim Law to determine if you really need this book. Another Crim Law hornbook may be more useful depending on what your professor will be covering in your class. 1/3 of what was in this book was not covered by my Crim Law professor. All in all it is a solid and easy to follow book.

If you are having issues reading the cases from the text, this supplement will help you with a little more concise summaries. We were required to buy it/read it, so I'm not sure how well it holds up on its own.

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