

Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Instructor: Kelli Moorhouse
Office: Y320 or Y205
Email: moorhouse@camosun.bc.ca
Office Hours: 5:15 pm to 6:00 pm Tuesday and Thursday

Course Description:

This course provides an examination of the Canadian criminal justice system, its components, processes, objectives, and functionaries. This includes an analysis of discretion, diversion, decision-making processes, and the operational practices of the system.

Learner Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Communicate your understanding of the legislative basis, structure, and functions of the various components making up the Canadian criminal justice system.
- Identify and critically discuss contemporary issues facing our criminal justice system.
- Map the progress of an accused person through the criminal justice process and identify the various options the system has for holding offenders accountable for their crimes.

Required Texts:

Goff, Colin (2001). Criminal Justice in Canada (Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson Canada).

Recommended:

Writing Reference Manual for the Criminal Justice Program
Canadian Criminal Code

Course Format:

It is expected that you will share your thoughts about the material as it is presented. Guest speakers, audio-visual presentations, and small group discussions complement the basic lecture-discussion delivery of this course.

Course Evaluation:

1. ***Court Report*** (5%)

You are required to attend and observe a criminal case in Provincial or Supreme Court at 850 Burdett Avenue in Victoria (Youth Court is not an option). Your written report will summarize the proceedings observed. This report may provide the basis of the offence you use in the Criminal Justice Process Synthesis.

Due: February 27th, 2003

Guidelines:

While observing the entire trial related to a criminal case is desirable, your report can be based on your attendance for a morning or afternoon session only, and therefore may cover only part of a trial, a sentencing hearing, a remand, or arraignment of an offender.

Regardless of what part of the proceedings you are able to attend, there are a number of common facts you need to report on for the purpose of this assignment:

- a) the charge(s) or offence(s) – Criminal Code sections if possible
- b) the level of court in which the case is being heard
- c) the identity of the accused(s), Crown Prosecutor, Defense lawyer
- d) the nature of the offence (brief description)
- e) the nature of the proceedings
- f) an overview of the proceedings
- g) the outcome (sentence, judicial reason for sentence)
- h) your personal observations of what you saw that day

Format:

Your assignment is to be written in essay format, typed, proper margins and font size, not single spaced, and have a title page. Use the CJ Writing Reference Manual for the appropriate format and for assistance with other aspects related to writing this report. Your report should be approximately 3 pages in length.

Don't recreate the dialogue of what you heard; instead, give me enough detail so I can have an understanding of what it was you observed.

Evaluation:

Content and clarity

Structure/organization (title page, essay format, transitions, introduction/summary or conclusion, bibliography – if included)

Spelling/Grammar

2. ***Quizzes*** (65%)

There are 4 quizzes in this course. Each quiz may be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, matching, and short answer questions.

- a) quiz #1 February 4th – chapters 1,2,3,5,6, and lecture/discussion material
- b) quiz #2 February 25th – chapters 7, 8, and lecture/discussion material
- c) quiz #3 March 13th – chapters 9,10, 11, and lecture/discussion material
- d) quiz #4 Final exam week – chapters 11, 12, 14, and lecture/discussion material

3. ***Criminal Justice Process Synthesis*** (30%)

Working in pairs, you are required to apply the knowledge gained in this course by guiding a criminally accused person through the criminal justice process from the point of arrest to release from the correctional system.

You will receive a guideline for this assignment.

Due: April 3rd, 2003

Bonus (5%)

There is not a formal participation mark in this course, however I will be taking attendance, and evaluating your participation in the class. You can earn 5% bonus marks by coming to every class, having read the material, and talking about the content in class. These are bonus marks so you start out at 0%!

Instructional Policies:

1. Late Penalty

All assignments must be completed and submitted on the date assigned. All late written work will be penalized 20% per day unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by me in advance of the assignment due date.

2. Written Assignment requirements

All assignments must be handed to me personally by you, personally, at the beginning of class. Assignments put under the door or by mail, or otherwise submitted will not be accepted.

3. Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Dishonesty

See the College calendar!

3. Course Completion Requirements

You must complete all evaluative requirements (quizzes, court report, synthesis) to receive a passing grade in this course. Unfortunately, if you don't, you will receive an F grade.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

January 7 th	Introduction
January 9 th	Overview of the Criminal Justice System Read: Chapter 1
January 14 th	What is Crime? - Sources of Law (p. 44+) - Elements of Crime (p. 51+) - Classification of Crime (p. 60+)
January 16 th	What is Criminal Justice? - adversarial system (p. 32+) - models of justice (p. 7+, Chapter 3) - costs of dispensing justice (p. 33+)
January 21 st	How to use the Criminal Code Read: the Code! (maybe not, but do bring it to class)
January 23 rd & 28 th	Policing Read: Chapters 5 and 6
January 30 th	Critical Issues in Policing Read: chapter 6
February 4th	QUIZ #1
February 6 th	Pre-trial procedures Read: chapter 7
February 11 th & 18 th & 20 th	The Courts Read: chapter 8
Note: February 13 th	READING BREAK
February 25th	QUIZ #2
February 27 th & Mar. 4 th & 6 th	Sentencing Read: chapters 9 and 10
March 11 th	The Correctional System Read: chapter 11
March 13th	QUIZ #3
March 18 th & 20 th & 25 th	Institutional based Corrections Read: chapter 11 again

March 27th
& Apr. 1st Community based Corrections
Read: chapter 12

April 3rd & 8th Future Directions
Read: chapter 14

April 10th Review

Exam Week QUIZ #4