

**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
**School of Arts & Science**  
**Criminal Justice**

**CRIM 254 – Young Offenders & Justice**  
**Winter 2003**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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The Approved Course Description is available on the web @ \_\_\_\_\_

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for your records.

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### **1. Instructor Information**

- (a) Instructor: Michael Young
- (b) Office hours: See schedule on office door and by appointment
- (c) Location: Young 210B
- (d) Phone (250) 370-3335
- (e) E-mail young@camosun.bc.ca

### **2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course each student will be able to:

1. Identify and evaluate the concept of juvenile delinquency/youth crime and the range of behaviours included under this concept.
2. Report in depth on the magnitude and impact of youth crime in Canada.
3. Identify and critically assess the theories purported to explain juvenile delinquency/youth crime.
4. Evaluate in depth juvenile justice legislation (e.g. *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, *Young Offenders Act*) in terms of underlying philosophies and current interpretations (e.g. definitions & legal processes).
5. Identify and review current and critical issues relating to youth justice in Canada.
6. Identify future trends in social responses to youth crime and youth justice.

### **3. Required Materials**

- (a) Texts

Bell, S.J. (1999). Young Offenders and Juvenile Justice: A century After the Fact.  
Toronto: ITP Nelson.

- (b) Other

Supplemental Readings: on reserve in the library.

**Optional Text:**

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (1999). The Juristat Reader: A Statistical Overview of the Canadian Justice System. Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing Inc.

#### **4. Course Content and Schedule**

(Can include: Class hours, Lab hours, Out of Class Requirements and/or Dates for quizzes, exams, lecture, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

**INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES:**

**1. Attendance and Participation**

Regular attendance and active participation are required. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, to be attentive, non-disruptive, constructive and respectful to others in their class participation. Discussion of current events that directly relate to course content is encouraged.

**2. Class Preparation**

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before coming to class. They are also expected to participate in class discussions/exercises based on those readings.

**3. Examination Changes**

Exams must be written at the times and dates assigned. Students who miss an exam must provide legitimate documentation for their absence (e.g. medical note). Students who miss an exam due to illness must inform the instructor of his/her illness on or before the exam date.

**4. Late Penalty**

Written work that is late will be penalized by five marks per day unless an extension has been previously arranged with the instructor in advance of the due date.

**5. Written Assignment Requirements**

All assigned written work must be typed, double-spaced and meet the requirements for formal social science research papers. Written assignments must include a proper title page and bibliography (works cited page). All sources of information in the text of the paper must be fully documented or referenced. *Assignments that do not adhere to these requirements will be penalized.*

**6. Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the failure to fully/accurately acknowledge the sources of any or all of the information used in the preparation of written work. This includes the use of quotes without using quotation marks or giving a proper reference citation to the original author. Plagiarism also includes failure to reference the sources of paraphrased (summarized) information or ideas. *Plagiarised assignments will receive a mark of "0".*

**7. Cheating/Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating may result in suspension from the Criminal Justice Program. Please refer to the current College Calendar and the Criminal Justice Orientation Manual.

**8. Course Completion Requirements**

Students must complete all evaluative requirements (exams, term papers, etc.) to receive a passing grade for this course.

## 9. Mark/Grade Challenges and Appeals

Students seeking to question a mark assigned by the course instructor on any course evaluation component must clearly indicate in writing the specific element of the test or assignment being questioned and provide written reasons/arguments supporting the challenge. See the college appeals process in the College Calendar.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### PART I. PERSPECTIVES ON DEVIANT YOUTH: OR WHAT IS YOUTH CRIME?

#### **Jan. 7, 9      Course Introduction      Course Outline**

- \*review course outline
- \*discuss course evaluation procedures and assignments

#### **Jan. 14, 16      The Concept of "Young Offender"      Text Ch. 1**

- \*the social construction of "youth"
- \*juvenile delinquent
- \*young offender

#### **Jan. 21, 23      Patterns and Characteristics of Youth Crime**

JR pp. 85-102

- \*measures of youth offending
- \*young offenders statistics
- \*is youth violence increasing?

#### **Jan. 23      Quiz 1**

### PART II. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES: CAN YOUTH CRIME BE EXPLAINED AND CONTROLLED?

#### **Jan. 28, 30      Biological & Psychological Factors**

- \*nutrition
- \*mental disorders

Text Ch. 4

#### **Reserve Reading**

- \*psychoanalytic approaches
- \*cognitive & moral development

#### **Feb. 4, 6      Sociological Factors**

- \*social structure explanations
- \*social process explanations

Text Ch. 5  
Reserve Reading

#### **Feb. 11, 13      Youth Crime, the Social Environment & Subcultural Theories**

- \*schools
- \*the streets
- \*the child abuse-youth crime connection
- \*youth gangs
- \*the drugs-youth crime connection

Text Ch. 6

#### **Feb. 18      Quiz 2**

### PART III. THE APPLIED PERSPECTIVE: THE YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

#### **Feb. 20, 25      Juvenile Justice: Past and Present**

- \*definitions: child offences, parent young person, youth court, youth worker

YOA, s.2(1)  
Text Ch. 7

<b>Feb. 27, Mar. 4</b>	<b>Principles &amp; Philosophy of the YOA</b> *guiding principles *alternative measures *jurisdiction of Youth Court *Youth Court judge	<b>YOA, ss.3-6 Text Ch. 7</b>
<b>Mar. 4, 6</b>	<b>Legal Processing Under the YOA: Police</b> *arrest & detention *alternative measures	<b>YOA, ss.4-15 Text Ch. 8</b>
<b>Mar. 11</b>	<b>Youth Court</b> *proceedings *sentencing	<b>YOA, ss. 16 &amp; 17 Text Ch. 9</b>
<b>Mar. 13</b>	<b>Quiz 3</b>	
<b>Mar. 18</b>	<b>Adjudication and Disposition</b> *youth corrections *non-custodial & custodial programs	<b>YOA, ss. 19, 20-26 Text Ch. 10</b>
<b>Mar. 20</b>	<b>(a) Appeals and Reviews of dispositions</b> <b>(b) Temporary Absences &amp; Absolute Discharge</b> <b>(c) Administrative/Procedural Issues &amp; the YOA</b> *youth workers *protection of privacy *maintenance & use of official records *fingerprints & photographs *disclosure and destruction of records *contempt of court *admissibility of statements *establishment of age	<b>YOA, ss. 27-34</b> <b>YOA, ss. 35-36</b> <b>YOA, ss. 37-40, 41-45, 47, 50, 55-57, 60-61, 69</b>
<b>Mar. 25</b>	<b>Reform of the YOA?</b> *Youth Criminal Justice Act <b>Reserve Reading</b> *provincial child welfare legislation	<b>Text Ch. 12</b>

**PART IV. CURRENT AND CRITICAL ISSUES IN CANADIAN YOUTH JUSTICE.**

<b>Mar. 27</b>	<b>Aboriginal Youth in Conflict with the Law</b>	<b>Text Ch. 11 Reserve Reading</b>
<b>Apr. 3</b>	<b>Female Young Offenders</b>	<b>Text Ch. 11 Reserve Reading</b>
<b>Apr. 8</b>	<b>Youth Gangs</b>	<b>Reserve Reading</b>
<b>Apr. 10</b>	<b>Quiz 4</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Note: every attempt to follow the course outline will be made. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify the topics and/or reading list.

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

*(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)*

(a) Assignments

(b) Quizzes (4 X 10%)

There will be four quizzes on the readings and lecture materials presented throughout the term. They will consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching and fill in the blank questions.

Dates: Various TBA

(b) Exams

(c) Other (e.g. Project, Attendance, Group Work)

### **Participation (5%)**

Participation will be determined by the instructor based on the quantity, and quality of each student's participation in class discussions.

### **Research Paper (55%)**

#### **Part I: Draft Paper (20%)**

Each student is required to write a research paper on a topic relating to young offenders and/or youth justice. The first step of this assignment involves the identification of a topic, preliminary research and submission of a draft copy. The assignment should be approximately 4-5 pages in length and include a title page, table of contents, and works cited page. The draft should be written in the third person and, therefore, reference to one's self or one's point of view is **not** acceptable. The assignment will require you to paraphrase or quote the works of various authors. Be sure to use the proper referencing style as described in the Criminal Justice Writing Reference Manual (no footnotes or end notes, please) and give credit to authors where credit is due. Only those works referred to should be listed in your Works Cited page and vice versa.

Due date: Feb. 13, 2002

#### **Part II: Final Paper (35%)**

The second step of this assignment is the completed version of the research paper. Completed papers should be 9-10 pages in length and written according to the above noted guidelines.

Further instructions for this assignment will be discussed in the first few weeks of classes.

**Late assignments will be penalized by 20% per day.**

Due date: Mar. 13, 2002.

## 6. Grading System

*(If any changes are made to this part, then the Approved Course description must also be changed and sent through the approval process.)*

*(Insert appropriate approved grading system – see last page of this template.)*

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%

A = 90 - 94%

A- = 85 - 89%

B+ = 80 - 84%

B = 75 - 79%

B- = 70 - 74%

C+ = 65 - 69%

C = 60 - 64%

D = 50 - 59%

F = 0.0 - 49%

## 7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

### LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

### ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

[www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html)