

Winter 2004
Camosun College
Criminal Justice Department

CRIM 154
Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 pm
Saturday 9 am

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Brian D. Young
Office: Y205 Phone: 370- 3109
Email: youngb@camosun.bc.ca
Office Hours will be on an Office Schedule to be posted beside the office door. Appointments may be made. I am also available after each class. I do not make house calls.

Credit: 3 - The credits are transferable to other fine establishments.

Format: The money you have paid, or will pay, entitles you to two hours and forty minutes of fun filled and educational lectures per week. Lectures will be interspersed with class discussion, problem solving in large and small groups, and maybe even student presentations (yawners). Although no marks are given for general participation in class, students are expected to participate in discussions. We will also be looking at videos, home movies or whatever else kills time. Lectures are the primary source of learning and attendance is expected. Students are reminded that this course can not be passed by simply reading the text book. You need to come to class to get all the information needed to complete the course.

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of Crim 154 is to introduce the student to the Canadian criminal justice system. Within the system there are many components: the offender, the police, the courts, lawyers, judges... and the law. Each of these components has their own interesting characteristics and is integral to the whole system and is intertwined with one another. We will examine each component of the criminal justice system independently and then examine its relationship with the whole system. By the end of the course students will have a solid foundation on which to build further knowledge and experience with respect to criminal law and the criminal justice system.

The first 85% of the course will focus on the adult system. The last part of the course will look at the young offender system.

To accomplish this otherwise daunting task we will look at the course book, cases from our courts, the *Criminal Code* and whatever else I can find lying around the place. Memorization is not as important as becoming familiar with the principles and concepts (but still pretty

darn impressive). Overall the course will be informative and fun - or you can receive credit vouchers for use in the future (not transferable, no cash value).

2. AND NOW THE FINE PRINT AS REQUIRED BY DEPARTMENTAL POLICY

2. TEACHING OBJECTIVES:

- A. To ensure students blah blah understand the components of the justice system and how they interact.
- B. To foster a class time that is fun and consists of open discussion between students and the instructor.
- C. To show to the students the blah blah blah various aspects of criminal law and to give the student the tools necessary to understand how criminal law works, or does not work, in our society.
- D. To allow students to explore areas of criminal law that are of interest to them through papers and other activities.
- E. To introduce students to the blah blah blah jargon and terminology of the criminal justice system.

3. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- A. To gain a greater understanding of criminal law and the many components of the system.
- B. To be able to critically analyze the system and the components that make up the system.
- C. To be able to articulate in open class blah blah blah their opinions and observations of criminal law.
- D. To be able to prepare a critical opinion on a set of facts and to write a precise paper on that opinion.
- E. To be able to observe the criminal system and to blah blah comment on the relationship between the criminal justice system and society.
- F. To be critical thinkers of the blah blah criminal justice system when they see it in action or reported on.

3. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

After many hours of comprehensive research and travels to book fairs and second hand stores around the world, a text has been chosen (actually I get a huge kickback that makes it worthwhile). I have tried other texts in this course and this one covers the material well (actually no other texts were available). It is worth the investment on your part (bag the RRSPs). This is available at your friendly bookstore (on the spot financing is available). The second edition of this book is okay. Why they keep coming out with a new edition is beyond me. But many things are.

The text is: Criminal Justice in Canada (Third Edition) Colin Goff

Although not required, the *Canadian Criminal Code* is highly recommended. They also look good on the coffee table and are handy for on-the-spot defences during your arrest. Most '00s criminals won't be caught dead without one. You do not need a 2003 *Code* - even one three years old is fine. Either the pocket *Code* or the annotated versions are fine. If you intend on doing more criminal law courses the annotated version may be the one for you. It will be used, for example, in Crim 270.

4. ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

Students will also be expected to read (say what!) the handouts distributed during the term. The handouts and the text form part of the course and students will be responsible for these at exam time.

The library (that is the big building with all the books) at the College has an excellent selection of criminal law related texts, books and periodicals. Students should familiarize themselves with the library's holdings. The Faculty of Law Library at Uvic is also open to Camosun Students. Being a law school, it has a much more extensive selection. It is located in the Faculty of Law building across from the stadium.

During term students should also keep up to date, and bring to class, current news items on criminal law. The great thing about criminal law is that the papers love it. Actually, all of society does. We all love a little dirt and wallowing in someone else's misery. That is what this course is all about. Local newspapers and news programs are an excellent source of criminal law information. The *Times Colonist* is one of the most useful newspapers produced

on Douglas Street. You can wrap fish in it, or use it in your litter box (or your pet's). That said, it has more criminal trash in it than most youth detention centres. Beyond one of the assignments, students are also well advised to go hang out at one of the courthouses. All trials are open to the public. I will try to keep you up to date on interesting happenings at the courthouses. One year students got to see a true first appearance of a fellow student - talk about hands-on learning. Naturally, anyone charged with an offence will be expected to keep us up to date on their progress through the system. Bonus marks will be awarded for extra curricular work such as that.

5. GRADING AND MARKING SYSTEM:

Alas, all good things must be graded. Letter grades are the College and are as follows:

A+	95-100%	B+	80-84	C+	65-69	F	0 -49
A	90-94	B	75-79	C	60-64		
A-	85-89	B-	70-74	D	50-59		

A standing of INC (incomplete) is only given after consultation between myself and the student. An INC not removed, becomes a big fat F.

Each exam clearly shows the value of the exam and what it is worth in terms of a percentage of the terms work. You are marked on exams for the answer given - there is no deduction for unanswered questions. Prior to each exam we will discuss in class what can be expected.

Papers or any assignments handed in are marked and then calculated as a percentage of the terms work. All students are marked independently of each other unless the paper is done with a partner. Spelling, grammar and punctuation are very important. Learning to write well is a craft – I will help you learn that. If you use a computer yet still hand in a paper with spelling errors you will have your diodes rearranged!

If at any time you receive a grade or mark you are unhappy with, either on an exam or a paper, please do not hesitate to consult with me.

Students should also familiarize themselves with the writing centre on Campus. If writing a paper is not your specialty spend some hours with the folks at the writing centre and you could improve your mark! The Criminal Justice Department has prepared a writing guide that is available through the bookstore. The writing guide provides assistance for anyone having to do a paper for one of the courses offered through the department.

6. STUFF YOU HAVE TO DO TO PASS THE COURSE:

As much as I would to give you all an “A” in the course, you have to earn your mark. This year I am trying something new. There are four nice simple assignments due for this course. There are two due dates for each assignment, other than the final, depending on the class you are in.

Quiz Number One	February 26 or 28	Value: 25%
Court Report	In Class	Value: 35%

Each assignment is mandatory. If you do not complete an assignment you will not pass the course.

The Quiz

This is a no-brainer. You come to class and write a quiz that will take you about half an hour, then go home. It will be based on anything, and I mean anything, covered in class up to the date of the quiz. The quiz will be True False/Multiple Choice. You will answer it on a computer sheet thingy using a pencil thing. This quiz is only offered once. You miss it – your done (after years of being a real softy I am trying on my new personality of asshole).

The Court Report

The purpose is for you to attend one of the courthouses in greater Victoria and then provide an overview of the criminal justice system as it relates to your experience in court. You may do this report in a team of up to three students. You can go to either the main courthouse on Burdett, or the Colwood Courthouse. You may attend either Provincial Court or Supreme Court. But, you must attend a criminal matter.

Your team is to observe a part, or more, of a criminal proceedings. You can observe part of a trial, a whole trial, a sentencing or whatever. You may even want to “interview” one of the lawyers, a clerk or a sheriff. Extra marks are given for ingenuity. You could even commit an offence and do some cell time with an accused. Plus, don't forget the local rag Times Colonist. That is great for what you have to do next.

Oh, and did I say... class presentation? That's right. Big bonus time. You get to then come to class and present, with your little group, your day in court. You must hand in at the time of your presentation a synopsis of what you saw (one full page).

Picking your case in court is key to making this work. For example, you will find it easier to complete the assignment if you pick something you can see more of. It will be even easier if what you pick has been reported on television or in the paper

This assignment is worth a huge total of 35% of your grade. Here is the breakdown and what I am looking for:

Class Presentation	25 marks		
		Case you picked	5 marks
		Presentation	15 marks
		Effort	5 marks
Synopsis	10 marks		
		Effort, grammar, content	
TOTAL	<hr/> 35 marks		

We will talk more about this assignment in class. But what it all boils down to is effort. You go to court for fifteen minutes, do a three minute dance in front of the class, and hand in a badly written half page... you are going to fail. Guaranteed.

The Final Exam

The date for this experience is set by the college. It takes place during exam week. The final covers the whole term, from the very first class to the very last. I am not quite sure what it will consist of, but I will let you know.

7. COURSE OUTLINE

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM STEP BY STEP

	TOPIC	READING
First Class January 7 or 10th	Introduction Overview/discussion of outline and assignments and grading options	None
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	STEP ONE	
Second Class January 9 or 10th	Definitions - offences and elements of crime: mens rea and actus reus - different systems - understanding the Code - learning the law	Browse the CCC Chap 1 skim
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	STEP TWO	
Some later class...	Getting Arrested - the Police - federal - provincial and municipal - arrest, searches and more! - The Charter of Rights - is there such a thing as a bad cop? - is there such a thing as a good cop?	Chap 2 & 5 Chap 3 & 4 skim
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	STEP THREE	
Some later later class...	The Courts - our court system - the federal court system - comparative court systems	Chap 7 & 8 Chap 6 skim Attend at the court- house. Watch court TV! Read the paper
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STEP FOUR

The Court Players

Chap 7 & 8

- prosecutors
- defence Counsel

The Trial Process

- procedure and practice in the criminal courts
 - evidence
 - introduction to defences
 - is there such a thing as a fair trial?
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STEP FIVE

Sentencing

Chap 9 & 10

- options
 - goals and gaols
 - principles
 - too little, too much?
 - what determines a fair sentence?
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STEP SIX

Prison System

Chap 11

- jails and prisons
 - is hard time too easy? Chap 12 skim
 - who operates the prisons?
 - whose soap is that?
 - is there such a thing as rehabilitation
 - what else should we do?
-

STEP SEVEN

Parole and Aftercare

- incarceration options
 - diversion
 - electronic anklets
 - prison overcrowding
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STEP EIGHT

Young Offenders Law

Chap 13

- introduction, intent and policies
 - too lenient?
 - who is a young offender?
 - what are they guilty of?
-

Note: Specific dates are not given as it is difficult to gauge the speed at which we will go through the course. Any changes will be announced in class

Please ask if you are feeling lost - especially if you thought this was a course in the nursing program. Please provide your comments on the course or the materials at any time.

8. REFERENCE READING

As stated above our library has excellent sources. The following are just some of the recommended reference reading or research texts. The calls numbers are for the Camosun Library.

Black's Law Dictionary	KF 156 B53 Ref
Canadian Law Dictionary	KE 183 Y63 Ref
Dictionary of Criminal Justice	HV 7411 R87 Ref
Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice	HV 6017 E52 Ref

Martins Annual Criminal Code	KE 8814.5 M2 Ref
Canadian Criminal Cases Annotated	KE 8805.8 C35 Ref

The Canadian Criminal Justice System, Boydell and Connidis, Toronto: 1982

Crimes, Courts and Corrections, Brannigan, Toronto: 1984

Criminal Law and the Canadian Criminal Code, Barnhorst, Toronto: 1977

Crime and You, Kirkpatrick, Toronto: 1976

Justice and the Young Offender in Canada, Hudson, Toronto: 1988

9. ONE FINAL THING...

Learning is meant to be interesting and fun. I will do my best to make it so. You need to do your part by coming to class and participating. You will find that exams and other assignments are easier when you have been to every class. As well, I tend not to give warnings when we are about to do something fun or out of the ordinary. If you miss a class you do so at your own peril.

10. ONE OTHER FINAL THING ... SOME GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

1. Regular attendance and participation are expected. The classes might be fun and interesting. The general rule is also that if it was said in class, it can be on an exam. This also implies that you should learn to take good, clear, class notes.

2. Please arrive in class on time. It is disruptive for other students and I will not repeat what was said if you are late.

3. Please do not bring food to class unless you intend to share it. Beverages are okay - burgers and fries, for example, are not. As one class is late in the day, sleep before you come to class. Fewer joys in life are found in waking sleeping students.

4. Prepare for class. This means do the readings and reviewing your notes. You will get a lot more out of class if you are at least up to date on what we are doing. If you stay up to date, exams are a lot easier.

5. Ask questions. The worst question is the one not asked.

6. Cheaters do not prosper (unless of course you are never caught). The Criminal Justice Department and the College have very strict policies on cheaters. I have zero tolerance for cheaters. If you are caught you fail – that's an F. Not just on the exam, but the course. And the rest of your life.

7. Do not email me to say you are going to miss a class. While I love to hear from you, your missing a class is your thing, not mine. Do not email me and ask for marks. That is lazy. Do not hand in assignments by email... they must be handed in to me in person. Emailing me is no guarantee of anything. If it is important, see me in person.

8. Check the Crim Justice web site and follow the links to my page. It will have some class handouts and copies of this Outline. It is good to keep checking in with that site every now and then.

If you have any questions about this outline, please see me in class or in my office.
Have a great term.