

Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

CRIM 154 - 004

Instructor: Kelli Moorhouse
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Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30 to 4:00 pm
Wednesday 12:00 to 12:30 pm and 2:00 to 3:00 pm
Thursday 2:30 to 4:00 pm
Friday 12:00 to 12:30 pm
Class: Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 to 5:20 pm (Young 201)

Course Description:

This course provides an examination of the Canadian criminal justice system, its components, processes, objectives, and functionalities. 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 (2004). 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.

LEARNER 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 24th

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) the outcome (sentence, judicial reason for sentence)
- g) 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. Reading Assignments (10%)

After each class you will be given 1 or 2 questions to answer before coming to the next class. Your responses are to be typed (handwritten will not be accepted).

Your responses will be used to facilitate discussion on the reading materials during class time.

You will be evaluated for content, analysis, reflective ness, clarity, et cetera (dependent upon the nature of the question).

I will use a scale of **good** (3 marks), **okay** (2 marks), **needs improvement** (1) in evaluating your responses to the questions.

3. Quizzes (60%)

There are 5 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 January 22nd – Chapters 1, 2, 3 and all classroom materials (lecture, presentations, videos) up to and including January 20th.
- b) Quiz #2 February 10th – Chapters 5 & 6 and all classroom materials up to and including February 5th.
- c) Quiz #3 March 4th – Chapters 7 & 8 and all classroom materials up to and including March 2nd.
- d) Quiz #4 March 18th – Chapters 9 & 10 and classroom materials up to and including March 16th.
- e) Quiz #5 – Final exam week – Chapters 11 & 12 and all classroom materials up to and including April 8th.

4. Criminal Justice Process Synthesis (25%)

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 6th,

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!

4. Course Completion Requirements

You must complete all evaluative requirements (quizzes, court report, and synthesis) to receive a passing grade in this course. The only exception will be the reading assignments. Unfortunately, if you don't, you will receive an F grade.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Jan. 6 th	Introduction to the course and each other
Jan. 8 th	Overview of the Criminal Justice System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Structure of the CJS ✓ Processing Cases through the CJS ✓ The Informal Operations of the CJS Read before this class: pages 1 to 19
Jan. 13 th	What is Crime? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sources of Criminal Law ✓ The Nature of Crime ✓ Classification of Offences Read before this class: pages 29 to 45
Jan. 15 th	What is Criminal Justice? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Models of Justice ✓ Crime Control Philosophy and CJ Policy Read before this class: pages 19 to 23 and 59 to 70

Jan. 20 th	How to use the Criminal Code Read: the Code! (maybe not, but do bring one to class)
January 22nd	QUIZ #1
Jan. 27 th & 29 th	Police Operations Read before these classes: Chapter 5
Feb. 3 rd & 5 th	Issues in Canadian Policing Read before these classes: Chapter 6
February 10th	QUIZ #2
February 12th	READING BREAK
Feb. 17 th	Pre-trial Criminal Procedures Read before this class: Chapter 7
Feb. 19 th 24 th , 26 th , & Mar. 2 nd	The Courts and Criminal Trial Procedure Read before these classes: Chapter 8
March 4th	QUIZ #3
Mar. 9 th	Sentencing and Punishment Read before this class: Chapter 9
Mar. 11 th & 16 th	Probation, Conditional Sentences, and Intermediate Sanctions Read before these classes: Chapter 10
March 18th	QUIZ #4
Mar. 23 rd 25 th & 30 th	Corrections in Canada Read before this class: Chapter 11
Apr. 1 st & 6 th	Community Reintegration Read before these classes: Chapter 12
Apr. 8 th	Review and discussion on future directions in CJ
Final Exam Week	QUIZ #5