

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

**CRIM 254 Young Offenders and Justice**  
**Winter 2004**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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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**

Instructor: Bruce McGuigan

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 and 10:00-11:00 AM.  
Tuesday 6:00-8:00 PM. Or by appointment

Location: Y200

Phone: (250) 370-3327

Email:

Website: <http://www.camosun.bc.ca/schools/artsci/crim/index.php>

## **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 relation 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.

Youth Criminal Justice Act (Pocket Criminal Code, 2003)  
(Students can access legislation on line at:  
<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/index.html>)

#### (b) Other

Additional reading placed 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. Course withdrawal date without penalty is March 8, 2004**

#### **10. 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 Student Appeal Procedure found on pages 38-48 of the 02-04 College Calendar.

## **5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)**

(a) Assignments

**Research Paper (25%)**

The research paper requires students to compare media coverage of issues covered in the course, to contemporary academic research. Students are required to select 2 newspaper articles on similar topics from a British Columbia newspaper published in 2003 or 2004. The information and conclusions from these articles will be compared to 8-10 academic sources, with a minimum of 4 academic journal articles, on the same topic published since 1995.

The completed paper is limited to 10 typed double spaced pages (approximately 2,000 words), not including title page, bibliography and attachments. The newspaper articles and photocopies of the journal article abstracts must be attached to the completed paper.

Due Date: March 15, 2004

(b) Exams (75%)

There will be four in-class exams of varying weights. In most cases, these exams will be limited to 45 minutes, and followed by lectures and class discussion. The second and third exams will be cumulative.

Exam 1: January 21, 2004. 15%

Exam 2: February 11, 2004 20%

Exam 3: March 17, 2004 25%

Exam 4: April 5, 2004 15%

The exam format will be multiple choice and short answer questions and cover material from the assigned reading and class discussions. The second and third exams will have a limited review component.

**6. Grading System**

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95-100%	B = 75-79%	D = 50-59%
A = 90-94%	B- = 70-74%	F = 0.0-49%
A- = 85-89%	C+ = 65-69%	
B+ = 80-84%	C = 60-64%	

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

### LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

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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)

## Class Schedule

**January 5**                    **Course Introduction – Course Outline**  
 Review course outline  
 Discuss course evaluation procedures and assignments

### **PART 1: WHAT IS YOUTH CRIME?**

**January 7, 12**            **The Concept of the “Youth Offender”**                    **Text, Ch. 1**  
 The social construction of youth  
 Juvenile delinquency  
 Young offender

**January 14, 19**        **Patterns and Characteristics of Youth Crime**        **Text, Ch. 3, 4**  
 Measures of Youth Offending  
 Young Offender Statistics  
 Is youth violence increasing?  
 Race and Gender  
 Victimization

**January 21**                **Exam 1 (15%)**

### **PART 2: THEORITICAL PERSPECTIVES**

**January 21, 26**        **Early Explanations**    **Text, Ch. 5**  
 Early Theory

**January 28,**            **Contemporary Theorizing**                                    **Text, Ch. 6**  
**February 2**            Integrative Approaches,  
 Critical and Conflict Theory  
 Explaining Female Young Offending

**February 4, 9**        **Social Environment and Subcultural Theories**        **Text, Ch. 7**  
 Family, School Peers, and Gangs

**February 11**            **Exam 2 (20%)**

### **PART 3: THE LAW**

**February 11, 16, 18** **Juvenile Justice Past and Present**                    **Text, Ch. 2**  
 Definitions, Child Offences    **YCJA**  
 Young Persons, Youth Courts, Youth Workers

**February 23, 25**        **Principals and Philosophies of the YCJA**                    **Text Ch. 2**  
 Guiding Principals    **YCJA**  
 Alternative Measures

**March 1, 3**                **Legal Processing under the YCJA**                                    **Text Ch. 8**  
 Arrest and Detention    **YCJA**

	Alternative Measures	
<b>March 8, 10</b>	<b>Youth Court</b> Processing Sentencing	<b>Text Ch. 9</b> <b>YCJA</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Term Paper Due</b>	
<b>March 15, 17</b>	<b>Adjudication and Disposition</b> Youth Corrections Non-Custodial and Custodial Programs	<b>Text Ch. 10</b> <b>YCJA</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Exam 3: 25%</b>	
<b>March 22</b>	<b>Appeals and Reviews</b>	<b>YCJA</b>
<b>March 24</b>	<b>Reform of the Youth Justice System?</b>	<b>Text Ch. 12</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>Aboriginal Youth Issues</b>	<b>Text Ch. 11</b>
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Female Youth Offenders</b>	<b>Text Ch. 11</b>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>Exam 4: 15%</b>	