

Fall 2004  
Camosun College  
Criminal Justice Department

## **Crim 150**

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

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Office hours will be posted in a timetable beside my office door. The best time to see me is after class. You can make an appointment to see me if you get really desperate. Consultation during office hours is included in the course fee. House calls are extra.

Notice I have put my email address up there. Don't think that means you can email me your life story or little whines. Don't care. Don't wanna know. The email is for you to contact me about important stuff. So... no jokes and nothing you wouldn't show your ma.

**DO NOT SUBMIT ANY ASSIGNMENTS BY EMAIL. THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Credit:** 3 - The credits are redeemable at other fine learning establishments. No cash value. Please ask for further details, consult the Camosun Calendar, or call the college President at home at 555-4317.

**Format:** One really long class per week totally two hours and fifty minutes. I only say that 'cause it's at night. Each class will seem long but there will be breaks and other fun activities to make the evenings seem more tolerable. Lectures are the primary source of learning. Although not graded specifically for discussion, students are asked, coached, prodded, and even cajoled into participating. The more you ask and involve yourself, the more you will get out of this adventure.

### **1. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course will closely follow the description in the calendar (that is why we have those things).

An introduction to the historical development and current operation of governing and law-making institutions in Canada, and the political, constitutional, and legal concepts of the Canadian Justice System.

In this course you will develop a broad understanding of the political and administrative systems which provide the environment within which the criminal justice system in Canada operates. Students will also increase their awareness of the interaction between politics and the criminal justice system in Canada, learn about the key players in the criminal justice system, and learn critical analysis of important issues in Canadian government and politics.

Attendance in class is expected as many of the more complicated concepts will be easily learned by the examples given in class. Memorizing the material is not as important as becoming familiar with the principles and the concepts (but still kinda impressive). This course is not passable by simply reading the text. In fact, some students did that and they barely passed and have struggled ever since (they're lawyers). By the end of this class you should be well equipped to commit a criminal offence and defend yourself.

## **2. TEACHING AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

These objectives are set by the college. They are the same on each and every outline (give or take a word) you will get. Great way to inspire individualism! Any how, read at your own will and on your own time.

My objectives:

- A: To ensure students understand the basic principles, procedures and substantive areas of criminal law.
- B: To foster a class time of open discussions and participation between students and the instructor that is educational and enlightening.
- C: To show the students the various sources of criminal law and provide students with the tools to understand and critique the criminal justice system, its offences and defences.
- D: To allow students to explore areas of criminal law that are of interest to them through papers and other activities.
- E: To allow students to participate in a mock trial that as closely as possible replicates a true criminal trial.
- F: To allow students a reason not to pay back their student loans.

Your Objectives:

Pick one or more of the following:

- A: To get through the course with as little effort as possible.
- B: To be able to critically analyze the criminal law and its main components and theories.
- C: To be able to articulate ideas in class and foster discussion with the instructor and other class participants.
- D: To be able to prepare a critical opinion and analysis on a set of facts.
- E: To gain a greater understanding of the criminal law and the defences available.
- F: To get a date.

## **3. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

1. *Canadian Politics Concise Second Edition*, Rand Dyck (Thomson Nelson Publishers)
2. *Contemporary Political Issues* (fourth Edition), Mark Charlton (Thomson Nelson Publishers)

Please note: I recommend that you purchase the second text, *Contemporary Political Issues*, with a friend. You will need it for an assignment but it is an expensive little bugger and will not be referred to as much. See if you can buy the two together and get a better deal (that is in the works with the publisher).

#### 4. ADDITIONAL SOURCES

Students are expected to read (your kidding) all the handouts, including this one. That means the cases, articles, the textbook and the casebook. The handouts and text are part of the course and students will be responsible for these at exam time. NOTE: anything that happens in class can be on an exam. You miss a class... you could miss an exam question.

The library at the College has an excellent selection of criminal law related texts, books and periodicals. Students should familiarize themselves with the library's holdings. Library tours are available (remember to take a buddy). A detailed list of criminal law related material is available just for asking.

The law library at Uvic is also open to students from Camosun. It is located in the Faculty of Law building across from the stadium.

During term students should keep up to date on the latest news that deals with criminal law issues and politics. Local trashy newspapers are great for crime stuff. The legislature sits in the fall in this fine province and you would do well to stroll down there one day, stare at the naked paintings, and catch some of the goings on in that bizarre institution we call government.

#### 5. GRADING SYSTEM

As much as I will likely think you are great, you must be graded. Letter grades are assigned for your course mark. The letter grades are set by the College.

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 -49				

A standing of INC means incomplete and is only given after consultation with me. This normally applies if you complete all but one of the assignments. Please note that all of the assignments are required. You can not selectively choose to omit one and still pass the course.

Exams are marked only for answers given - there is no deduction for unanswered questions. Papers are marked as a percentage of the term grade. The mark is also given as a letter grade for students. All students are marked independently of each other.

Spelling and grammar are very important. While this may not be an English course, I get paid the big bucks to teach you a number of things: just one of which is criminal law. Be sure to proof read your paper very carefully. Spill cheques often myth sum whirreds spilled connectivity yet our owed off contacts.

Sadly, I have seen many "A" papers end up as a "B" due to poor spelling and grammar. Please do not let this happen to you. If you use a computer and still hand in a paper with spelling errors, you will have your diodes rearranged! Spelling on exams is not as critical, but at least give it a try.

At any time I am available to discuss the marking system, your individual marks, the course... or life in general. Please do not hesitate to come and see me.

The College also offers excellent assistance to students. Please see the following:

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

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

Each course I teach takes countless hours of development by our Research and Development arm of the Crim Justice Department. Consultation with thousands of former students allows me to decide just how students in each term should be graded. Once we have received back the questionnaires that we mail to thousands of students, the results are tabulated and the final scores kept by Price Waterhouse. Based on this I then test-run assignments on student laboratory mice to see how the assignments work and if they are fair. This is not easy task. Finding mice that work the way students do, is tougher than it looks. In the end, it is hard to pick assignments that please everyone. The bottom line, therefore, is just to make sure that I, and the Research and Development mice, am happy.

Cross Currents Debates	40%
Quiz	20%
Final Exam	40%
	<hr/>
	100%

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL OF THESE ASSIGNMENTS ARE REQUIRED. IF YOU MISS ONE YOU FAIL. GOT IT?**

**A. Cross Currents Debates** – value of course grade is **40%**

You will be on a presentation team of four students. As a team you must sign up with me for one of the issues from the text *Contemporary Political Issues*. There are 23 issues set out in the text and there will be ten teams of students so you have lots of choice. Each team will then divide into two sides and present one of the issues debated in the text. For example, if your team picks issue 1, *Is the political culture of Canada becoming Americanized*, you will present as a debate the two sides, the yes and no, to the class. There is some flexibility in how you chose to present you side, but you must cover the issues in an interesting and informative way. After each side has presented their issue, another team will ask questions of the two sides. Easy.

Each issue presentation will be conducted as follows:

The YES side of the issue: 10 min  
 The NO side of the issue: 10 min  
 Questions of the YES side: 5 min  
 Questions of the NO side: 5 min  
 Closing comments YES side: 2 min  
 Closing comments NO side: 2 min

Once all the teams have been selected and the issues assigned, a list of presentation dates will be distributed.

Marks will be apportioned for this assignment as follows:

Presentation of Issue	25
Organization	
Detail	
Effort	
Answers to Questions	05
Posing of Questions	10
	<hr/>
	40

Marks are given per team of two, not the team of four. As a team of two you will have to present an issue, respond to questions and then pose questions to another team of two.

### **B. Exams** – a little quiz and a honking big final.

There will be a mid-term quiz and a final exam. The mid-term will be in class on October 26, 2004. It will be a true false/multiple choice sort of thing. It is worth **20%** of your course grade. The final exam is a whopping **40%** and the college sets the date. I have no control over the date. So, bribe me all you want... but I cannot change it so you head off to your little chalet in the mountains (cause I'm going to my little chalet and I matter more than you).

The format for the exams will be discussed in class. Each exam must be written – you don't have to pass, but you must write it. If you miss an exam, you can not pass the course. We have a number of laboratory mice that missed one, and we had to draw the line and execute them.

### **C. So You Wanna be a Criminologist?**

Yes, it's game show time. For the first time ever you get to be a contestant in that infamous show "So You Wanna be a Criminologist?"

Playing is easy – winning is tough. Every now and then... depends on time and stuff... we will ask for a volunteer to come on up and play (please, no touching). You will be asked a series of questions. If you get them right, you win bonus points to be added to your total for the term. Just think, you could do this every week and pass the course by doing nothing else (just kidding). You will be allowed three lifelines to answer the questions (a friend, 50/50, or 25 seconds in the text book). Sounds easy. But, if you get one wrong, you're done. Then someone else gets a turn. More details in class.

## **7. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE**

	TOPIC
First Class	Introduction Discussion of outline and course requirements
Second Class	Justice and Law Outline of the Parliamentary System
Third – Fourth Class	History of Government Monarchy

Common Law  
Development of Parliamentary System

Next 3 weeks	Development of the Courts Division of Powers Economic and Class differences in Canada
Early October	Constitution Charter of Rights Federalism
Mid October	Senate House of Commons PMO Cabinet
November	Political Parties Party Discipline Elections A better electoral system? Interest Groups The Fifth Estate
End of November / Term	Governing Canada The courts today

Dates are not provided for the specific topics. It is impossible to gauge the speed at which we will travel through this minefield, but you will always know where we just were and where we are about to go. If you are ever feeling lost either come and see me or call the SPCA.

If there is a particular area you wish to know about, just ask! Not all of the areas covered are in the textbook. WARNING: if you miss a class you better get someone's notes.

## 8. SOME GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

1. Regular attendance and participation are expected. There is an old saying that even if you come to class and take no notes, you leave with some new knowledge. The other old saying is 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 (which is probably a saying from somewhere).

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. Also, just because I may be late every now and then does not mean you can be late too!
3. Please do not bring food to class unless you intend to share it (which does not mean talking with your mouth full). Beverages are okay - burgers and fries, for example, are not. This can be tough as this class is three hours at night... but be strong.
4. Prepare for class. This means do the readings and reading the cases. 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. Cheaters will be publicly ridiculed and stoned (remember the short story "The Lottery"?).
7. Please provide feedback to your instructor on the course, the book, the cases or whatever. Your input is respected and valued: after all, you're payin' big bucks to be here.

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

Have a great term.