

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

**Crim 290 -- Comparative Criminal Justice Systems**  
**Fall 2004**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

---

**The Approved Course Description is available on the web @Camosun.bc.ca**

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

---

---

### **1. Instructor Information**

- (a) Instructor: Michael Young
- (b) Office hours: TBA & by appointment
- (c) Location: Young 210B
- (d) Phone: 370-3335
- (e) E-mail: young@camosun.bc.ca
- (f) Website: <http://www.camosun.bc.ca/schools/artsci/crim/index.html>

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

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

- 1. Identify the importance of studying comparative criminal justice systems.
- 2. Articulate an international perspective on criminal justice
- 3. Demonstrate an understanding of incidence, trends, control, treatment and prevention of crime in other countries
- 4. Identify how criminal justice systems in different countries conceptualize police, judiciary corrections and juvenile justice.
- 5. Research, analyze and present a critical issue pertaining to international criminal justice.

### **3. Required Materials**

- (a) Required:

A course pack of required readings is available in the bookstore.

Reichel, P. (2002). Comparative Criminal Justice Systems: A Topical Approach. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

- (b) Optional:

Obi, E. (2000). Comparative & International Criminal Justice Systems: Policing, Judiciary and Corrections. U.S.: Butterworth-Heinemann.

(c) Other:

Criminal Justice Writing Reference Manual

#### 4. Course Content and Schedule

The content of this course is delivered through lecture, but may include seminars, group discussions and guest speakers at the instructor's discretion. Class meets once a week for three hours.

##### **General Course Objective:**

At the end of the course, Crim 290 students will be able to substantiate an international perspective in regards to the criminal justice system in Canada and foreign countries. This course exposes students to international perspectives of crime and criminal justice and the legal traditions underpinning those perspectives. It will enhance students' knowledge on a variety of criminal justice systems related to the police, judiciary, corrections and juvenile justice. As well, critical issues affecting the international community such as terrorism and organized crime will be explored.

##### **Teaching Objectives:**

1. To encourage students to think analytically and critically about international criminal justice.
2. To conduct each class in a manner in which information is shared, questions can be asked, and in which dialogue and discussion is encouraged.
3. To expose students to the range of criminal justice systems operating in the world and the issues which exemplify the operation of police, courts and corrections and the delivery of juvenile justice.
4. To identify how the sharing of knowledge between countries may help manage the problem of crime.

##### **Instructional Policies**

###### **1. Late Penalty**

Oral assignments must be completed on the date assigned. All late written work will be penalized by 20% per day unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by the course instructor ***in advance*** of the assignment due date.

###### **2. Written Assignment Requirements**

- a. All assignments must be handed to the instructor at the beginning of class. All assignments must be turned in to the instructor personally; assignments put under the door, in the mail, or otherwise submitted will not be accepted. If the submission of a paper is problematic, see the course instructor in advance of the submission date.
- b. Written assignments for this course must be typewritten, double-spaced and meet the basic requirements set out in the Criminal Justice Writing Reference Manual.

###### **3. Plagiarism, Cheating and Academic Dishonesty**

If plagiarism, cheating and/or academic dishonesty can be documented by the course instructor, the penalty will be an automatic "zero" on the assignment in question.

#### 4. Course Withdrawal

The last day to withdraw from this and other Winter term courses without receiving a failing grade is Nov. 9 2004.

#### 5. Course Completion Requirements

Students must complete all evaluative requirements (Oral Presentation, Paper, Take-Home Questions, Self & Peer Evaluation) to receive a passing grade for this course. Unless granted prior written course instructor approval, a student who fails to complete any one of the evaluative requirements will automatically receive a fail (F) grade.

#### 6. Mark/Grade Challenges and Appeals

A student seeking to question a mark assigned by the instructor on any course evaluation component, must clearly articulate in writing the specific element of the assignment being questioned and provide written reasons or arguments supporting a change in the mark. The Student Appeal Procedure is found on pages 41-46 of the 2004/2005 college calendar.

#### 7. Student Responsibility

It is each student's responsibility to familiarize her/himself with course, program, and College policies. Students experiencing difficulties during the term are encouraged to talk to the course instructor at the earliest opportunity.

### Class Rules

The first and most fundamental principle for participation in this class is that of RESPECT. This will be expected of all persons present both in and out of the classroom while engaged in discussion of class material. The following guidelines should be **followed in class**:

1. Participation during the discussion periods is encouraged, but remember not to take more than your fair share of class time to ask questions, present a point of view, debate a particular point made, etc. Ask yourself once in a while, whether you are taking more than your fair share of time.
2. Your response, questions and comments should be couched in respectful language, should be free of intense emotions, and should not be critical of the presenter or otherwise personalized. Identify and criticize a statement, point of view, belief, opinion, behavior, etc., by clearly stating why you object or disagree, with the focus of your statement being on the issue not the messenger. Please avoid personal attacks on a person, or criticizing the presenter. No one likes to feel attacked.

3. Speak respectfully to and about groups whether or not they are represented in class. For example, casual remarks that stereotype a group may be hurtful and damage the class atmosphere. I am offended by remarks that are racist, sexist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, ablist etc., that exemplify prejudice against specific groups or individual people. I will object to these remarks when I hear them in class and you are welcome to do the same. The recommended response to such an objection is to clarify what you said (if you were misinterpreted) or apologize.
4. Everyone has the right to make mistakes, including the instructor. Making mistakes is an effective way of learning. Let's be patient and respectful of one another's intellectual and personal growth.
5. If speaking out in class is really difficult for you, come see me to discuss other possible ways of fulfilling the participation requirement of this course. I appreciate that there are cultural and individual differences concerning speaking in class.
6. Please be sure to arrive to class on time. Once a student presentation has begun the classroom doors will be closed. It is expected that people arriving **late will not enter** during a presentation, and therefore will forfeit their attendance (and mark) for that class.

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

### (a) Assignments

#### **Written Report** **25%**

For the purpose of this assignment, students are required to submit a 2000 word paper on international criminal justice. The paper can take one of two forms: (1) it can involve the identification of crime problem from an international perspective; or (2) the student can propose changes to an aspect of the Canadian criminal justice system based on the practices of another country. Further instructions on this assignment will be distributed during the first few weeks of classes.

Date: TBA

### (b) Other (e.g. Project, Attendance, Group Work)

#### **Reaction Papers** **4 @ 10%** **40%**

Students are required to submit 4 reaction papers in the form of chapter reviews from weekly readings. The purpose of these papers is to provide a summary of the theoretical and applied messages that the authors convey and to provide a critical evaluation of the effectiveness of the articles in identifying the aspects of criminal justice covered. Further details relating to the format and content of the reaction papers will occur during the first week of classes.

Dates: Various TBA

#### **Group Presentation** **25%**

Working in groups of 3-4, students are required to present and discuss with their classmates an international criminal justice issue. Topics for presentation will be distributed at the beginning of the semester; instructions for the presentations appear in the Course Reader, which will be elaborated on by the instructor.

Each group will be evaluated by the instructor and by 2-3 peers. The instructor's evaluation is weighted at 50% and peer evaluations the other 50%. Guidelines

explaining the expectations of the group and the evaluation process appear in the Course Reader, which will also be discussed in class. Following presentations, groups are required to lead the class in a discussion on the topic and to answer questions arising from the presentation. Groups are required to meet with the instructor to discuss their presentation at least one week prior to their presentation date.

Due Date: Various TBA

### **Participation and Attendance**

**10%**

Participation and attendance are weighted at 5% each. Participation will be determined by students' participation in class discussions. A record of attendance and participation of each student will be kept by the instructor. Each unexcused absence will result in an automatic loss of 1%.

## **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%	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**

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)

## CRIM 290 - CLASS SCHEDULE

Date		READINGS
Sept. 8	1. Introduction to Course 2. An International Perspective on Criminal Justice	Text Ch. 1
Sept. 15	1. International Crime Statistics 2. Criminal Justice in Canada	Text Ch. 2 C.R. #1 C.R. #2
Sept. 22	Comparing Criminal Justice Systems: Part 1 4 Legal Traditions	Text Ch. 4
Sept. 29	Comparing Criminal Justice Systems: Part 2 Substantive Law and Procedural Law	Text Ch. 5
Oct. 6	Comparative Policing	Text Ch. 6
Oct. 13	Comparative Judicial Systems	Text Ch. 7
Oct. 20	Comparative Corrections	Text Ch. 8
Oct. 27	Comparative Juvenile Justice	Text Ch. 9
Nov. 3	A Synthesis of International Criminal Justice	Text Ch. 10 C.R. #3
Nov. 10	How to do an Oral Presentation Guidelines for Oral Presentations	C.R. #4
Nov. 17		
Nov. 24	Presentations	
Dec. 1	Presentations	
Dec. 8	Presentations	