

**CAMOSUN COLLEGE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE 154
INTRODUCTION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
COURSE OUTLINE
WINTER 2005**

Instructor: Karin Kaercher **Phone:** 370-3333
Office: YOUNG 210A **Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs: 10:30- 11:30; Wed/Fri:
Email: kaercher@camosun.bc.ca 10:00-11:30; Thurs: 1:30-2:20

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: English 12 or assessment

Class Times: Sec 02- Wed/Fri 8:30 - 9:50
Sec 03 – Tues/Thurs 2:30 –3:50

Course Format:

Course content is conveyed through one hour and twenty minute lectures/seminars twice weekly and assigned readings. Course delivery methods include lectures, guest speakers, audio-visual presentations, and individual and group exercises and presentations as assigned by the instructor in class.

Required Texts:

Goff, C. (2004), **Criminal Justice in Canada** (Scarborough, Ontario: Thompson Nelson Canada).

Recommended:

Writing Reference Manual for the Criminal Justice program
Canadian Criminal Code (pocket size is fine)

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

Instructional Objectives:

1. To identify, describe and critically assess the Canadian criminal justice system.
2. To examine each component of the criminal justice system from three main perspectives: legislative, structural and operational.
3. To demonstrate the interrelationships between the various components of the system and the broader social context within which the system operates.
4. To provide students with a foundation for further studies in criminology and criminal justice.

Student Outcomes:

The completion of this course will enable you to:

1. Communicate your understanding of the legislative basis, structure and functions of the various components making up the Canadian criminal justice system.
2. Identify and critically discuss contemporary issues facing our criminal justice system.
3. 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.

Grade Distribution:

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

A standing of INC will only be awarded upon prior arrangement between teacher and student.

What do the grades mean?

A: The student demonstrates all of the qualities of the "B" student and shows added resourcefulness, initiative and excellence in meeting course requirement. An "A" student surpasses the expectations of the course by doing additional reading, providing well thought-out and a clearly expressed ideas on exams and assignments. Demonstrates analytical and critical thinking skills.

B: Clearly performing above average, demonstrating a solid grasp of the readings and lecture material, and is able to reflect this knowledge orally and in writing. Demonstrates analytical thinking skills.

C: Meets all course requirements satisfactorily and has a competent understanding of the material. Further improvement is attainable with effort and refined reading, writing and analytical skills.

D: Generally performing below average. Does not show signs of having read the assigned readings or is unable to present ideas in writing and insufficient clarity or detail. May need remedial assistance to elevate reading/writing skills.

F: Fails to meet all or most course requirements. This may be due to poor attendance, hastily prepared assignments, not having done the readings or some other correctable problem. The course could be taken again with instructor's permission.

Course Assignments and Evaluation:

The total marks in this course are distributed as follows:

1. Court Report -10%
2. Quizzes (3@20%) -60%
3. Criminal Justice Process Synthesis -30%

1. Court Report 10%

Each student is required to attend and observe a criminal case in Provincial or Supreme Court at 850 Burdett Avenue in Victoria. Your written report will summarize the proceedings observed and could be used to form the basis of the offense you use in the Criminal Justice process Synthesis.

Due date: Sec. 02 – March 2, 2005

Sec. 03 – March 1, 2005

2. Quizzes 60%

There will be three in class quizzes scheduled during the term. The quizzes will be comprised of a number of multiple choice, short answer, and true/false questions and will be based on the textbook readings and class lecture materials. The dates will be as follows:

Quiz #1 – Sec. 02 - Feb.9, 2005 20%
Sec. 03 – Feb.8, 2005

Quiz #2 – Sec. 02 - March 11, 2005 20%
Sec. 03 – March 10, 2005

Quiz #3 – Final Exam Week 20%

Each quiz must be written on the date it is assigned. No provision will be made to write a quiz earlier and a student will only be allowed to write a missed quiz on provision of a valid medical certificate attesting to the fact that he/she was ill on the date in question. In addition, the student who misses a quiz due to illness must inform the instructor on the date of the quiz of the reason of his/her absence.

3. Criminal Justice Process Synthesis

30%

Working in pairs, students 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.

A guideline describing this assignment and the evaluation criteria will be distributed in class.

Due Date: Sec. 02 – April 8, 2005
Sec. 03 – April 7, 2005

Instructional Policies

1. Late Penalty

All assignments must be completed and submitted 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 instructor in advance of the assignment due date.

2. Written Assignment Requirements

All assignments must be handed to the instructor at the beginning of class. Assignments should be turned in to the instructor personally; assignments put under the door or in the mail, or otherwise submitted will not be accepted. If the submission of an assignment is problematic, come see me well in advance of the submission date.

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 or academic dishonesty can be documented, the penalty will be an automatic "zero" on the assignment in question.

4. Course Withdrawal

The last day to withdraw from this course without receiving a failing grade or academic penalty is March 14, 2005.

5. Course Completion Requirements

Students must complete all evaluative requirements (court report, synthesis, and quizzes) to receive a passing grade for this course. Unless granted prior instructor approval, a student who fails to complete any one of the evaluative requirements will automatically receive an "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 Appeals Procedure is found on page 44 of the 2004/2005-college calendar.

7. **Student Responsibility**

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

Class Schedule

Jan 11/12 Introduction of course content, format and evaluations

Jan 13/14 Overview of the Canadian criminal justice system

Ch 1 Goff

Jan 18/19 What is a crime?

Ch 2 Goff

- sources of law
- criminal code
- elements of a crime
- classification of crimes

Jan 20/21 What is criminal justice?

Ch 1, 3 Goff

- an adversarial system
- models of justice

Jan 25/26 How to use the Criminal Code

(bring your Criminal code to class)

Jan 27/28 How much crime is there in Canada?

Ch. 4

Feb 3/4, The Police

Ch 5, 6 Goff

- contemporary structure and operations
- police role and function
- police powers and discretion

Feb 8/9 Quiz # 1

Feb 15/16 Police cont'd

Feb 17/18 Pre-trial procedures

Ch. 7 Goff

Feb 22-25 The Courts and Trial Process

- structure, operation and key role players
- criminal trial procedure
- plea bargaining/negotiations

Ch. 8 Goff

Mar 1-9 Sentencing and sanctions

Ch 9, 10 Goff

- purpose of sentencing
- sanctions – incarceration, probation, fines and alternatives

Mar 10/11 Quiz # 2

Mar 15-18 The Canadian correctional system

Ch 11 Goff

- structure and operations
- legislative mandate

Mar 22- April 1 Incarceration and institutional based corrections

- federal and provincial corrections
- classification
- sentence management
- rehabilitation/treatment programs
- the correctional milieu: staff and offenders perspectives

Apr 5-8 Community based corrections

Ch 12 Goff

- conditional release programs
- community reintegration services

Apr 12-15 Young offenders and the juvenile justice system

Ch 13 Goff