



**CRIM 154 – INTRODUCTION TO THE CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE SYSTEM  
Fall 2007**

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## **COURSE OUTLINE**

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**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

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### **1. Instructor Information**

- (a) Instructor: KARIN KAERCHER
- (b) Office hours: Tues/Thurs. 10:30-11:30; Wed/Fri 12:30-2:00
- (c) Location: Young 210 A
- (d) Phone: 370-3333
- (e) E-mail: [Kaercher@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:Kaercher@camosun.bc.ca)
- (f) Credits transferable to: Simon Fraser University, Royal Roads University, University of Regina, Malaspina University College, University of Ottawa and UCFV and others – see BC Transfer Guide online.
- (g) Prerequisite: English 12 or assessment
- (h) Class Time: Sec. 01 Tues/Thurs 12:30 – 2:00

### **2. Learning 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 and describe 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.

***In order to successfully achieve the stated learning outcomes, it is expected that students will attend all classes and that, on average, students will spend three hours of outside class preparation for each hour of in-class instruction.***

### 3. Required Materials

(a) **Texts**

Griffiths, C. (2007), **Canadian Criminal Justice: A Primer** (Scarborough, Ontario: Thompson Nelson Canada).

(b) **Recommended:**

**Canadian Criminal Code** (pocket size is fine)

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### 4. Course Content and Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to engage students in a critical examination of the justice services and processes that exist at the federal, provincial, community levels in Canada. Factors in the analysis include:

The legal mandate of the justice system  
A description of services, policies, and practices and the process by which an offender is brought to account for criminal activity  
The interrelationship between the various agencies  
Current issues facing the cjs

### 5. Basis of Student Assessment

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%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 be a summary of the proceedings observed. Guidelines for this assignment will be distributed in class.

Due date: Oct. 30, 2007

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 and true/false questions and will be based on the textbook readings and class lecture materials. The dates will be as follows:

Quiz #1 – Oct. 11, 2007 **20%**

Quiz #2 – Nov. 8, 2007 **20%**

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.

***Students should be aware that the completion date for this course includes the final examination period following the termination of regularly scheduled classes in April (Dec. 10-18<sup>th</sup> 2007 inclusive).***

3. **Criminal Justice Process Synthesis** **30%**

Working in pairs, students are required to apply the knowledge gained in this course by guiding an 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:** Dec. 6, 2007

## 6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B = 73 - 76%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89%	B- = 70 - 72%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 80 - 84%	C+ = 65 - 69%	
B+ = 77 - 79%	C = 60 - 64%	

***A standing of INC will only be awarded upon prior arrangement between teacher and student, subject to supporting documentation.***

***This course is considered a Criminal Justice core course and therefore a student must achieve a C grade or better to receive transfer credit.***

### **What do the grades mean?**

- A: Designating a “superior level of achievement”, a letter grade of A is awarded to the student who surpasses course expectations by doing additional reading and research, and by providing well thought-out and clearly expressed ideas on exams and assignments. The student demonstrates outstanding organizational, analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as added resourcefulness in meeting course requirements.
- B: Designating a “high level of achievement”, a letter grade of B is awarded to the student who exhibits substantial comprehension of course reading and lecture materials and is able to reflect this knowledge orally and in writing. The student demonstrates analytical thinking skills and clearly performs above average in meeting course requirements.
- C: Designating a satisfactory or “sufficient level of achievement”, a letter grade of C is awarded to the student who completes all course requirements and has a competent understanding of the course materials. Further improvement is attainable with effort and refined reading, writing, analytical, and organizational skills.
- D: Designating a “minimum level of achievement”, a letter grade of D is awarded to the student who generally performs below average, does not show signs of having read the assigned readings or is unable to present ideas in writing in sufficient clarity or detail. The student may need remedial assistance to improve reading/writing skills.
- F: Designating “below minimum level of achievement”, a letter grade of F is awarded to the student who 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.

## **7. Instructional Policies**

### **1. Attendance and Participation**

Regular attendance and participation in class are required. It is expected that students will arrive to class on time and that, during class, students will be attentive, non-disruptive, open-minded, constructive, and respectful of others. Students are encouraged to identify current events that directly relate to course content.

### **2. Class Preparation**

It is expected that students will come to class prepared. Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to coming to class, and to participate in class discussions and exercises based on these readings.

### **3. Quiz Date Changes**

No provision will be made to write a quiz earlier or later than originally scheduled. A student will only be allowed to write a missed quiz by providing a valid medical certificate attesting to the fact that s/he was ill (or suffered an accident) at the time of the assigned test. In addition, the student who misses a

quiz due to illness must inform the instructor **on or before the date** of the quiz of the reason for her/his absence.

**Note:** Students arriving thirty minutes or more after a quiz has commenced or after the first student has completed their quiz and left, will not be permitted to write the quiz.

**4. Late Penalty**

Please see your instructor as soon as possible if you think you will have difficulty meeting any of the due dates. All assignments must be completed and submitted by the date assigned. All late written assignments will be penalized by 20% of the total mark per day. The starting point for penalty assessment is immediately after written assignments are received by the instructor at the beginning of class. Students having a legitimate concern about meeting the due dates should consult with the instructor well in advance.

**5. Written Assignment Requirements**

Written Assignments for this course must be typewritten, double-spaced and meet the basic requirements for formal academic papers.

**6. Course Completion Requirements**

Students must complete all evaluative requirements (Court Report, CJ Synthesis and Quizzes) to receive a passing grade for the course. Students failing to complete all the requirements will receive an F grade.

**7. Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the failure to fully, and accurately acknowledge the sources of all information used in your assignments, thereby giving the impression the work is your own. Plagiarism includes the use of quotes, or another author's words, without using quotation marks or giving a proper reference citation to the original author. Plagiarism also includes failing to document the source(s) of paraphrased information/ideas.

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense. If plagiarism is documented by your instructor, the penalty will be an automatic "0" for that assignment.

**8. Cheating/Academic Dishonesty/Student Conduct**

The Criminal Justice Department has a clearly articulated policy on cheating and student conduct, as does the College. Cheating may result in suspension and the potential loss of a career in the criminal justice field. Please refer to a current College Calendar and the Criminal Justice Orientation Manual.

**9. Course Withdrawal**

The last day to withdraw from this and other courses in the Fall 2007 term is Nov. 6, 2007.

**10. Mark/Grade Challenges and Appeals**

A student who is seeking to question a mark and/or informally resolve a grade appeal with the course instructor must clearly articulate in writing the specific element of the test or assignment being questioned and provide written reasons/arguments supporting why the mark/grade should be changed. The College appeals process is outlined on pages 34 of the 2007/2008 Camosun College Calendar.

**11. Student Responsibility**

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

## 8. Semester Outline - Topics and Reading List

**Week 1 Introduction of course content, format and evaluations**

**Week 2 Overview of the Canadian criminal justice system** Ch 1

**Week 3 What is a crime?** Ch 1

- sources of law
- principles of criminal law
- classification of crimes

**Week 4 Criminal justice in Canada** Ch 1

**Week 5 How much crime is there in Canada?** Ch. 2

**Week 5 How to use a Criminal code**

**Week 5 The Police** Ch 3

- contemporary structure and operations

**Week 6 The Police** Ch 4

- police role and function
- police powers and discretion

**Oct. 11 Quiz #1**

**Week 7 Pre-trial procedures** Ch. 5

**Week 8/9 The Courts and Trial Process**

- structure, operation and key role players
  - criminal trial procedure
  - plea bargaining/negotiations
- Ch. 5

**Week 10 Sentencing and sanctions** Ch. 6

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

**Nov. 8 Quiz #2**

**Week 11 The Canadian correctional system**

Ch.7

- structure and operations
- legislative mandate

**Week 12 Incarceration and institutional based corrections**

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

**Week 13 Community based corrections**

Ch. 8

- conditional release programs
- community reintegration services

**Week 14 Young offenders and the juvenile justice system**

**9. 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 **which includes plagiarism**. 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)