

# ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

## CRIM 150-001

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**Blair Fisher, M.Ed**

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**Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm

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**Class:** Fisher 338; Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:30pm-5:20pm

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### CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course is 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.

### LEARNER OUTCOMES:

After successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe the political and administrative systems which provide the environment within which the criminal justice system in Canada operates and the policy and law-making processes.
- Articulate awareness of the interaction between politics and the criminal justice system in Canada.
- Identify the key players in the criminal justice system.
- Identify and assess important issues in Canadian government and politics that have an impact on the operation of the criminal justice system.

### REQUIRED TEST:

Dyck, R. (2009) **Canadian Politics**. Concise 5<sup>th</sup> Ed., Thomson Nelson.

### COURSE GRADING:

- Three (3) exams worth 15% each.
- Two (2) group presentations worth 10% each
- Three (3) discussion posts worth 10% each
- Participation worth 5%

## CLASS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

*(subject to revision)*

### **Week #1 May 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Introduction to the course
  - Textbook
  - Course assignments
  - Website for course
  - Course and classroom expectations
- The Political System
- Foundations of Canadian Government Institutions
- The role and responsibilities of governments in criminal justice
- Models of criminal justice administration
- Class Cleavages
- Read Chapter 1 p.1-15 and Chapter 2 p.35-45

### **Week #2 May 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**

- Challenges in the politics of criminal justice:
  - History and challenges of Aboriginal peoples.
  - Aboriginal justice
  - History and challenges of ethno-cultural minorities
  - History and challenges to participation for women
  - Legal, reproductive, sexual, and violence issues
  - Adapting the administration of justice to special groups
  - LBGTQ issues
- Political Culture
- Political Socialization
- Read Chapter 4; Chapter 5 p. 106-107; Chapter 6 p.134-147

### **Week #3 Victoria Day May 23<sup>rd</sup>- NO CLASS**

- **May 25<sup>th</sup> Examination #1 2:30pm-3:30pm**
- The mass media
- Public opinion polls
- Examining the history and debate of capital punishment

### **Week #4 May 30<sup>th</sup> & June 1st**

- The election organization
- The national parties and local candidate campaigns
- Examining justice issues as election issues
- The proportionality of the electoral system
- The functions and types of political parties
- Party organization and leadership
- Chapter 8 p.178-193; Chapter 9 p.205-207 & 212-228

**Week #5 June 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

- **Group presentations**
- Social Movements and Lobbying
- Justice related advocacy groups
- **Examination #2-June 8<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm-3:30pm**
- The Charter of Rights & Freedoms
- Read Chapters 10 and Chapter 11.

**Week #6 June 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**

- Provinces and the federal system
- Provincial & Federal powers
- Municipal, Provincial Federal Justice powers
- Police and Corrections accountability
- The Executive branch of government
- Policymaking
- The Crown
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Chapter 12 p.288-294; Chapter 13.

**Week #7 June 20<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- **Group Presentations**
- Parliament & House of Commons
- Composition of House of Common
- Stages & kinds of legislation
- The committee system
- Opposition party roles
- The Senate
- How to make a law: Should keeping Christmas lights up year round be illegal?
- Read Chapter 15

**Week #8 June 27 & 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Courts and the administration of justice
- Functions and powers of the courts
- Categories of laws
- Structure of the courts
- Federal Court of Canada
- Supreme Court of Canada
- The appointment of Judges
- Judicial independence and accountability
- Policing and corrections
- Read Chapter 16
- **Examination #3-June 29<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm-5:20pm**

## METHODS OF EVALUATING YOUR LEARNING

### **Participation (5%)**

Regular attendance and active participation is required. It is expected that you will arrive on time, be attentive, non-disruptive, constructive and respectful.

For example, using headphones, engaging in text messaging, looking at voice messages, surfing the internet or using any means of disengaging with your classmates and the learning process is not accepted in this class. You will be asked to leave the classroom setting.

You are expected to complete the assigned readings before coming to class. This often becomes increasingly more difficult as the semester moves along and as the completion of assignments and preparation for exams takes a great deal of your time. I would strongly recommend that you use some type of day book where you can keep track of each weeks assignments, readings, exams and other expectations being placed on you.

You are also expected to participate in class discussions and activities based on the readings. To help you engage in this, you will likely want to find an active means of doing your readings. For example, you can take notes (questions and answers often work well) or highlight your textbook and write in the margins before coming to class.

### **Discussion Posts (3 posts) (30%)**

Due dates: May 18<sup>th</sup>, May 30<sup>th</sup> & June 22<sup>nd</sup>

There are many interesting topics and issues that arise when examining the political justice systems in Canada. You will be required to read an article or current event and develop a response to questions posed regarding this event and post your responses. Please do not have your responses submitted as attachments (e.g. as a word doc) but instead cut/paste your answer to the question. In the subject area, write down the question you are answering.

The articles and questions for the semester will be posted on the D2L and discussed in class in the week prior to its due date. The purpose of these posts is to examine ongoing current events in politics and criminal justice so the articles will be on issues that are currently being discussed in the House of Commons or are on the current political landscape. It will be important to keep aware of current events throughout the semester and their impacts on the criminal justice system. Please utilize news media outlets daily to stay current of these developments.

**Due by May 18<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday**

**Due by May 30<sup>th</sup> – Monday**

**Due by June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday**

## Grading Rubric:

	<u>Marks / 5</u>
Responds appropriately to the question(s) Discussion thoroughly relates to the discussion question(s) Response is over 150 words Always demonstrates proper online etiquette	<u>8 - 10</u>
Responds appropriately to the question(s) Response is approximately 100 to 150 words Discussion mostly relates to the discussion question(s) Often demonstrates online etiquette	<u>7 - 7.5</u>
Responds appropriately to the question(s) Response is between 50 and 100 words Discussion somewhat relates to the discussion thread Sometimes demonstrates online etiquette	<u>6 - 6.5</u>
Responds appropriately to the question(s) Response is between 50 and 100 words Discussion loosely relates to the discussion question	<u>5 - 5.5</u>
Does not respond appropriately to the question(s) Response is less than 50 words Discussion not related to the discussion question(s) Does not demonstrate online etiquette	<u>4 marks maximum</u>

**Exams (45%)**

Three exams are scheduled for this course.

**May 25<sup>th</sup> (15%)**

**November 8<sup>th</sup> (15%)**

**June 29<sup>th</sup> (15%)**

Each will sample your recollection of the content from the textbook readings as well as the material addressed in class (guest speakers, powerpoint, video presentations, etc).

This is a content heavy and condensed course so be sure to actively read your textbook.

The format may include true / false, fill in the blank, short answer, matching and multiple choices.

## **Group Presentations (2 presentations) (20% total)**

Due Dates: June 6<sup>th</sup> & June 20<sup>th</sup>.

The purpose of this assignment is to use the appreciative inquiry style of learning to explore a particular group or set of issues and report back to the class what you have learned. Each groups will be graded using the following criteria:

Quality: Freedom from errors and mistakes, accuracy, quality of work in general.

Quantity: The actual work output of each student, relative to their other group members.

Initiative and Creativity: Ability to plan, take initiative and ability to be constructive.

Effort: The degree to which the student does his/her best and is motivated.

Dependability: To the extent group member can be depended upon and to do it properly.

Cooperativeness: Willingness to work harmoniously with others in getting the job done.

Group Interaction: The polite attention an individual gives other group members.

Skills: Knowledge of the techniques, skills, processes, equipment and procedures.

### **Due: June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

In groups of four (4), Examine the role, responsibilities and key players within your agency. You can examine harm reduction, crime reduction, victimization and overall community safety. This can be done creatively by using a recent crime or political happening relative to your agency. Prepare a two (2) page report on your agency to be put on the D2L content. The prepare a ten (10) minute class presentation to be done on June 6<sup>th</sup> during class.

### **Due: June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

In groups of (3), Research you chosen/assigned MPs and their positions on justice related issues. Be sure to research the MPs background and answer the following questions;

1. What do they consider to be the most important justice matter faced in their constituency?
2. What is their perspective on issues of police/RCMP, Victims, offenders, the judiciary, Crown Counsel, corrections and, aftercare/social service agencies.
3. Does you MP follow the general party policies in regards to justice issues or do they have some differing ideas?

Prepare a ten (10) minute presentation for the class and create a one page summary to be posted on the D2L. As MP's will not be officially sworn ion until the first week of classes, a detailed list of BC MP's will be provided at that time.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES**

### **1. Attendance & Participation**

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### **2. Class Preparation**

You are expected to complete the assigned readings before coming to class. This often becomes increasingly more difficult as the semester moves along and as the completion of assignments and preparation for exams takes a great deal of your time. I would strongly recommend that you use some type of day book where you can keep track of each weeks assignments, readings, exams and other expectations being placed on you.

You are also expected to participate in class discussions and activities based on the readings. To help you engage in this, you will likely want to find an active means of doing your readings. For example, you can take notes (questions and answers often work well) or highlight your textbook and write in the margins before coming to class.

### **3. Late Penalty**

All assignments must be completed and submitted on the date and at the time assigned. The penalty for late assignments will be 10% per day. An extension can be granted only with at least 48 hours notice and will only be granted for one assignment per student for the semester. Group presentations will receive a zero grade if not completed on the scheduled date. Procrastination can 'get the best of us' so be certain to manage the time you need to complete assignments.

### **4. Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Dishonesty**

Please see the College calendar!

<http://camosun.ca/policies/Educatio-Academic/E-2-Student-Services-&-Support/E-2.5.pdf>

### **5. Course Completion Requirements**

You **must** complete all evaluative requirements (three exams, three discussion posts and two presentations) to receive a passing grade in this course. Unfortunately, if you do not complete all requirements, you will receive and F grade. All late work must be handed in by June 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm.