

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CRIM 150-001

Blair Fisher, M.Ed

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Class: Young 211; Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00am-11:20am

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:

Coursepack “Readings for Criminal Justice 150” (available in Lansdowne Bookstore)

COURSE GRADING:

- Three (3) exams worth 50% (15,15,20).
- One group presentation and write-up worth 25%
- One MP/MLA research project worth 20% each
- Class Participation worth 5%

CLASS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

(subject to revision)

Week #1 September 6th & 8th

- 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
- Video “Governments on Earth”

- Read **Julien Roberts- Criminal Justice in Canada: An Overview**

Week #2 September 13th & 15th

- 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

- Read **Rand Dyck- Aboriginal Peoples, Ethnocultural Minorities & Gender**

Week #3 September 20th & 22nd

- Political Culture
- Political Socialization
- Class Cleavages
- Video “The Story of Mouseland”

Week #4 September 27th & 29th

- The mass media
- Public opinion polls
- Examining the history and debate of capital punishment

- Read **Peter McKnight- The Funhouse Mirror: Media Representations of Crime & Justice**

Week #5 October 4th & 6th

- **October 4th Examination #1**
- The election organization
- The national parties and local candidate campaigns
- Examining justice issues as election issues
- The proportionality of the electoral system
- Party organization and leadership

- **Read Rand Dyck- Elections & the Electoral System**

Week #6 October 11th & 13th

- The functions and types of political parties
- Social Movements and Lobbying
- Justice related advocacy groups

- **Read Rand Dyck- Advocacy Groups, Social Movements & Lobbying**

Week #7 October 18th & 20th

- The Charter of Rights & Freedoms
- Video “Fundamental Freedoms”
- Provinces and the federal system
- Provincial & Federal powers
- Municipal, Provincial Federal Justice powers
- Video clip “Who Does What?”

- **Read Marie Manikis- Criminal Justice & the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms**

Week #8 October 25th & 27th

- The Executive branch of government
- The Crown
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Parliament & House of Commons
- Composition of House of Common
- The Senate

- **Read Michael Atkinson & David Docherty- Parliament & Political Success in Canada**

Week #9 November 1st & 3rd

- **Examination #2 November 1st**
- Stages & kinds of legislation
- Policymaking
- The committee system
- Opposition party roles
- How to make a law: Should keeping Christmas lights up year round be illegal?

- Read **Hugh Mellon & Paul Barker- Is the Prime Minister too Powerful?**

Week #10 November 8th and 10th

- 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

- Read **Rand Dyck- The Courts & The Administration of Justice**

Week #11 November 15th and 17th

- The appointment of Judges
- Judicial independence and accountability
- Crown prosecutor and Defence Counsel roles
- Guest Speaker

- Read **Brian Manarin- The Role of the Prosecutor**
- Read **Paul Burstein- The Role of Defence Counsel**

Week #12 November 22nd and 24th

- **Group Presentations**
- Policing Accountability and Management
- Video “Damage Done: The Drug War Odyssey”

- Read **Brian Whitelaw, Richard Parent & Curt Griffiths- Overview of Canadian Policing**

Week #13 November 29th and December 1st

- Corrections Accountability
- Corrections Management
- Victims and the Criminal Justice system

- Read **Michelle Grossman, Susan McDonald & Catherine Kane- Crime Victims & the Justice System**

Week #14 December 6th & 8th

- Exam Review
- Course Review
- Any catch-up we may need.

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.

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.

Exams (50%)

Three exams are scheduled for this course.

October 4th	(15%)
November 1st	(15%)
Final Exam week	(20%)

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, group presentations, etc). Each exam will not be comprehensive and based on the material covered between exam periods (ie. The final exam will be based on material covered from November 1st to the course end date). That being said, some of the latter material covered will be based on concepts covered during earlier portions of the course. This is a content heavy and condensed course so be sure to actively read your assigned readings. The format may include true / false, fill in the blank, short answer and multiple choices.

Group Presentation (25%)

Due Date: November 22nd

The purpose of this assignment is to use the appreciative inquiry style of learning to explore and report back to the class what you have learned. 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 due at the time of the class presentation.

Prepare a ten (10) minute class presentation to be done on November 22nd during class. Each group 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.

MP/MLA Assignment (20%)

Due Date: December 6th 11:20am

Individually, research your local MP and MLA and their positions on justice related issues. Be sure to research their backgrounds and answer the following questions;

1. What is their role in Parliament? Do they have a Cabinet posting or are they a backbencher? Are they with the governing party or are they in opposition?
2. What do they consider to be the most important **justice** matter faced in their constituency?
3. What is their perspective on any of the following issues; Police/RCMP, victims, offenders, the judiciary, Crown Counsel, corrections, or aftercare/social service agencies.

You are free to use the constituencies that you are currently living within or any constituency that you have lived in within your lifetime that may have important meaning to you and you may have important information about justice-related issues in that community.

Prepare a 1 page report on each representative (2 pages total) that will be submitted on the D2L by December 6th at 11:20am.

INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES

1. Attendance & Participation

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.

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 assignment, readings, exams and other expectations being placed on you.

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, presentation and assignment) to receive a passing grade in this course. Unfortunately, if you do not complete all requirements, you will receive an F grade. All late work must be handed in by the scheduled final exam start time or you will not write the final exam.