

INTRODUCTION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

CRIM 154-004

Blair Fisher, M.Ed

Office: Young 205 at Lansdowne Campus
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, Noon-1:00pm
Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00pm
Phone: 250 370-3109
E-mail: fisherb@camosun.bc.ca
Class: Westshore Learning Centre; Mondays, 6:00-8:50pm

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an examination of the Canadian criminal justice system, its components, processes, objectives, and functionaries. This includes an analysis of discretion, diversion, decision-making processes, and the operational practices of the system.

LEARNER OUTCOMES:

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

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

REQUIRED TEST:

Griffiths, C.T. (2011) **Canadian Criminal Justice, A Primer**. 4th Ed., Thomson Nelson.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Writing Reference Manual for the Criminal Justice Program
Canadian Criminal Code

CLASS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS
(*subject to revision*)

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM – AN OVERVIEW

September 12th & 19th

Week #1 September 12th

- Introduction to the course
 - Website for textbook
 - Website for course
 - Overview of assignments
 - Course expectations
- What is the criminal justice system (CJS)? (p. 3-5)
- What is ‘justice’? Whose law? Whose justice? (p.25-26)
- The role and responsibilities of governments in criminal justice (p.5-11)
- The flow of cases through the CJS / The crime funnel (p.11-14)
- The foundations of the legal system (p. 14-23)
- Models of criminal justice administration (p.23-25)
- The ‘emergence’ of restorative justice (p.26-30)
- Is the criminal justice system a ‘system’? (p.30-32)

Week #2 September 19th

- Challenges in criminal justice:
 - Addressing the high cost of crime and the CJS (p.37)
 - Ensuring ‘justice’ in a multicultural society (p.37-38)
 - Responding to organized crime and terrorist threats (p.39)
 - Meeting the needs of special groups of offenders (p.39)
 - Adapting the administration of justice to the task environments (p.40)
 - Addressing public perceptions of crime and the CJS (p.40-42)
 - Increasing community involvement in the CJS (p.42-45)
 - Developing effective CJ policy and Programs (p.45-46)
 - Gathering accurate information on crime rates and patterns (p.46-47)
 - Addressing issues in First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities (p.47-49)
 - Providing effective programs for victims of crime (p.49-51)
 - Providing financial compensation for crime victims (p. 52-55)
- The Criminal Code – Activity – bring a Criminal Code to class

POLICING IN CANADA

September 26th, October 3rd, 17th

Week #3 September 26th

- A brief history of policing (p.61-62)
- Defining police work (p.62-63)
- Police work in a democratic society (p.63-68)
- The structure of policing (p.68-80)
- Police occupation (p.81-82)
- Structures of police governance (p. 82-84)

Week #4 October 3rd

- Wrongdoing in police work (p.84)
- Police accountability (p.84-89)
- The evolution of police practice (p.123-124)
- Community policing (p.124-141)
- Police powers:
 - Charter Rights (p.93-94)
 - Detain and arrest (p.95-98)
 - Search and seizure (p.98-102)
 - Entrapment (p.102-104)
 - Use of Force (p. 104-111)
- Video: “Inside The Interrogation Room”

Week #5 October 10th- Thanksgiving Day-No class

Week #6 October 17th

- Measuring the effectiveness of police strategies (p.142-145)
- Police discretion and decision-making (p.111-113)
- Guest Speaker
- The police and visible/cultural minorities (p.113-117)
- Video: “Two Worlds Colliding”
- Exam Review

Week #7 October 24th – Examination #1

COURTS

October 31st, November 7th, 14th

Week #8 October 31st

- **COURTS**
- The provincial court system (p.152-153)
- Federal courts (p.153)
- Where do Judges come from? (p.153-154)
- Specialized provincial courts (p.154-161)
 - Video: “The Vancouver Drug Treatment Court”
 - Victoria Community Court
- Laying an Information and Laying a charge (p.178-179)
- Compelling the appearance of the accused
 - Appearance notice (p.179)
 - Summons (p.179-180)
 - Arrest (p.180-181)
 - Pre-trial release by the police (p.181)
 - Judicial interim release & pre-trial remand (p.181-184)
- First appearance or arraignment / plea (p.188)
- Plea bargaining (p.188-191)
 - Video: “Lets Make a Deal”

Week #9 November 7th

- **TRIAL**
- Mode of trial (p.164-168)
 - Preliminary inquiry
- The trial (p.191-199)
- Appeal (p.199)
- Access to legal aid (p.185-186)
- Fitness to stand trial (p.186-188)
- Delay and backlog (p.171-172)
- Judicial accountability (p.168-171)
- Crime victims and the court process (p.200-201)
- Restorative justice approaches (p.201-204)
- Wrongful convictions (p.204-206)

November 7th Cont'd...

- **SENTENCING**
- Purpose and principles of sentencing (p.213-215)
- Sentencing options (p.215-219)
- Concurrent and consecutive sentences (p.219)
- Judicial determination (p.219)
- Judicial restraint order (p.219)
- How do Judges decide? (p.220-228)
 - Statutory guidance (S.718 CCC) (p.223-224)
 - Maximums and minimums (p.224-225)
 - Appellate decisions and legal precedents (p.225)
 - Aggravating and mitigating factors (p.225-226)
 - Gladue Reports (p. 226-227)
- **TRY JUDGING EXERCISES**

Week #10 November 14th

- Additional sentencing options:
 - Extraordinary measures (p.228-229)
 - Sentencing and crime victims (p.229-231)
 - Sentencing and restorative justice (p.232-235)
 - Video: “A River Runs Through It: Exploring Restorative Justice Principles”
- Measuring effectiveness of sentencing options (p.235-237)
- Diversion (p.243-246)
- Probation (p.246-252)
- Intermediate sanctions (p. 253-254)
- Conditional sentences (p. 254-256)
- Electronic monitoring (p. 256-259)
- Exam Review

Week #11 November 21st - Examination #2

CORRECTIONS

November 28th, December 5th, 12th

Week #12 November 28th

- **CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS**
- Structure (p.265-272)
- Life inside prison (p.272-273)
- Doing time (p.279-283)
 - o Guest Speaker
- Assessing inmate risk and needs (p.283-285)
- Treatment programs (p.285-295)
- Managing correctional institutions (p.273-276)
- Working in corrections (p.276-279)
- Accountability in corrections (p.294-296)
- How effective is incarceration (p.296-297)

Week #13 December 5th

- **RELEASE & RE-ENTRY**
- Parole process (p.305-306)
- Parole flow chart (p.308)
- Conditional Release (p.306-309)
- Release options for Provincial / Territorial inmates (p.309-311)
- Release options for Federal inmates (p.311-317)
- Parole Board decision making (p.319-324)
- Reintegration process (p.324-329)
- Parole supervision (p.294-296)
 - o Guest Speaker

Week #14 December 12th

- Special categories of offenders (p.317-319)
- Victims & Conditional release (p.319)
- Recidivism among Parolees (p.337-340)
- Does Parole work? (p.340)
- Revisiting accountability (p.340-345)
- Aftercare agencies and programs
- Reintegration process (p.324-329)
 - o Video “One Hundred Days of Freedom”
- Exam Review

Week #15 December 19th -Examination #3

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.

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.

Discussion Posts (3 posts) (15% of final grade)

There are many interesting topics and issues that arise when examining the criminal justice system in Canada. You will be required to develop a response to a few of these questions 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.

Note. Choose any 3 of the 5 weeks below and then choose 1 question to answer. For example you might choose to respond to question (b) for week 5; question (a) for week 9; and question (c) for week 10.

Here are the questions for the semester

Due by September 26th – Monday 6:00pm

- a. Why is the Charter of Rights and Freedoms important to any study of the Canadian CJS?
- b. Does Canada 'need' a criminal justice system? Why or why not?
- c. Discuss the role of discretion in the criminal justice system. What are your views on the use of discretion?

Due by October 17th – Monday

- a. Many police services include post secondary education as a preferred qualification. What is your view about the importance that is attached to a college or university degree? What assumptions do you feel are being made by such a requirement?
- b. What are your thoughts on amalgamation of policing services within the Capital Regional District? Do you think this will be a benefit or a detriment to the community you reside in? How?
- c. Affirmative action programs enable visible minorities priority in employment positions in order to reflect the gender, racial and cultural proportionality within a community. What are your thoughts on the importance of the police force reflecting the gender, racial and cultural make-up of the community they are serving?

Due by November 14th – Monday

- a. Discuss the pros and cons of an adversarial system of justice. How does this affect the ability to examine the “true story” around any particular crime?
- b. What do you see as the pros and cons of specialized provincial courts, are they addressing serious social issues or just letting offenders get a chance of avoiding prison?
- c. With all the cutbacks in Legal Aid funding, what do you feel would be a fair system for access to legal aid? How important is Legal Aid to the Criminal justice System?

Due by November 28th – Tuesday

- a. What is your opinion about victim offender mediation? If you were a victim of crime, would you be interested in participating in victim offender mediation? Why? Why not?
- b. A convicted person who is subsequently determined by the presiding judge to be a “dangerous offender” may be ordered by the judge to spend an indeterminate period of time in detention. The process of establishing that a person is a “dangerous offender” requires that judges predict, based on patterns of past behaviour, the likelihood of serious offences in the future. What issues are raised for you by this process?
- c. When sentencing people who are suffering from mental disorders, some disorders are seen as aggravating factors while others are seen as mitigating factors. What concerns does this raise for you? Do you feel that this is an issue the courts should be deciding upon, or an issue for psychiatric professionals?

Due by December 5th – Tuesday

- a. Halfway houses are an important way in which to monitor offenders during their reintegration back into the community. Many communities want their crime rates to be addressed and to have offenders returning to their communities to be under supervision. How would you feel if a halfway house opened in your community? What factors would you want to have considered when they are assessing suitability for offenders to be living there?
- b. How would you have responded to the inmate who stated to your textbook author (C.T. Griffiths), “I did the crime, I’ll do the time. But the State does not have the right to inflict additional punishment on me by failing to protect me while I’m incarcerated.”
- c. Should prisons be abolished?

Grading Rubric:

| | <u>Marks / 5</u> |
|---|------------------------|
| Responds appropriately to the question(s) Discussion thoroughly relates to the discussion question(s) Response is within 15 to 25 lines Responds to two classmates’ notes in the thread (posts) Always demonstrates proper online etiquette | <u>4.25 - 5</u> |
| Responds appropriately to the question(s) Response is approximately 10 to 25 lines Discussion mostly relates to the discussion question(s) Responds to two classmates’ notes in the thread (posts) Often demonstrates online etiquette | <u>3.5 – 4.25</u> |
| Responds appropriately to the question(s) Response is between 5 and 10 lines Discussion somewhat relates to the discussion thread Responds to one classmates’ note in the thread Sometimes demonstrates online etiquette | <u>3 – 3.5</u> |
| Responds appropriately to the question(s) Response is between 5 and 10 lines Discussion loosely relates to the discussion question Does not respond to another classmates’ note in the thread | <u>2 – 3</u> |
| Does not respond appropriately to the question(s) Response is less than 5 lines Discussion not related to the discussion question(s) Does not respond to another classmates’ note in the thread Does not demonstrate online etiquette | <u>2 marks maximum</u> |

Exams (40%)

Three exams are scheduled for this course.

October 24th (10%)

November 21st (10%)

December 19th (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, etc).

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

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

Criminal Justice Process Synthesis (40%)

Due: December 12th, 2011 (start of class)

The purpose of this assignment is to apply the knowledge gained within this course to the reporting of criminal proceedings related to an accused who you will guide through the criminal justice process from the time of arrest to their release from the correctional system.

You will use a fictional offender.

Working alone or in pairs, the synthesis requires that you “walk” the offender through the criminal justice proceedings, documenting and describing in detail, the various applicable procedures, options, and decisions made along the way (ie. Arrest, release, formal charge, court appearances, plea, trial, sentencing, incarceration, post-incarceration release, etc.).

Assumptions:

1. all offenders are adults
2. all will be tried in adult court
3. all accused will go to trial
4. all will be found guilty
5. all sentences will include a period of incarceration of at least 2 years
6. all offenders will appear before a Parole Board and will be granted conditional release
7. You will not have offenders receive a life sentence, they must have fixed date sentences.

In your description of walking the offender through the justice system, you must include:

1. a description of the criminal event or offence
2. relevant criminal code sections spelling out the offence and possible punishment
3. a description of the role and involvement of police, defence lawyer, Crown Prosecutor, Judge, Probation officer, Parole Board, Parole officer, etc.
4. a clear step by step description of all proceedings and decisions and reasons therefore, including:
 - a. all pre-trial procedures
 - b. the trial
 - c. sentencing and appeal
 - d. the process of incarceration and application of punishment
 - e. the release of the offender back to the community

note: be sure to address all 'options' available at the various stages, as well as the discretionary powers of the various participants in the justice process (e.g. Judge, CP, Police officer) Please use the grading rubric that will be provided on the D2L to guide you through this process.

Format:

Typed, double spacing, 1-inch margins, & 12 font Arial or Times Roman, numbered pages.

Provide a cover page (follow the CJ Writing Reference Manual).

Use a 'report' format and include headings that highlight the various steps along the way to bringing your offender to justice. Headings will make it easier to follow the transitions you are making between components and procedures. Include a table of contents.

As we move through this course, I strongly suggest you use the following outline to stay on top of this assignment.

- The Offence (write up by end of February)
- Pre-Trial Activities and Procedures (write up by end of March)
- The Trial and Sentencing (write up by middle of April)
- Incarceration (write up by end of April)
- Conditional release (write up over the weekend prior to the due date)

Due: December 12th at the start of class (if handed in during class time it is deemed late – no exception). If you will be missing class, ensure that you submit a copy of your synthesis on the D2L site using the 'drop box' feature. You will still need to bring in a hard copy.

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 the class 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 daybook where you can keep track of each week 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. There are no marks for late submissions on the discussion posts (initial posts and responses). Late synthesis will be penalized 10 percent (off 100 percent) per day late (starting at the time the assignment is due: 6 pm) unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by me at least 48 hours in advance of the assigned due date.

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>

Plagiarism is theft! I teach as well as work within the Criminal Justice System and academic honesty is a critical trait to have within your life.

5. Course Completion Requirements

You **must** complete all evaluative requirements (three exams, four discussion posts, and one synthesis) 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 December 19th at 6:00pm.