



**School of Arts & Science
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT**

**CRIM 188-03
Issues in Criminal Justice
Winter 2016**

COURSE OUTLINE

This course introduces students to topical issues facing criminal justice such as the overrepresentation of aboriginal peoples, drug prohibition, harm reduction and crime myths. Media influence on perceptions of crime and justice policy is examined. Students are introduced to policy analysis, group work and oral presentation skills.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- (a) Instructor: Wendy Taylor
- (b) Office hours: Friday 11:30 to 12:20, before or after class or by appointment
- (c) Young 207
- (d) E-mail: TaylorW@camosun.ca
- (e) Prerequisite: Crim154
- (f) Class Time: Wed and Friday – 10:00 to 11:20 Room Y201

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Explain the role of the media in the creation and maintenance of crime myths and in the spread of misinformation about criminal justice.
- Explain how policy is developed within criminal justice and its implications for practice as it pertains to a variety of issues.
- Research and present findings on the political, legal, social, and economic effects of the colonization of aboriginal people in Canada.
- Describe the various roles and practices associated with effective team work.
- Use effective group work skills to complete a group project.
- Conduct effective oral presentations on criminal justice issues/policy.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Texts:

Crim 188 Course Readings available in the Bookstore

Campbell, M. (1973). *Half-breed*. Halifax, Ns: Formac. 1983, c1973

Supplemental readings: distributed by instructor **in class** (in the unlikely event that you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out if any readings were distributed and obtain one from a class mate or your instructor).

COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE (subject to revision)

- Week 1** **Introduction to course, course topics, organization and expectations**
- Introduction to effective team/group work**
- Week 2** **Introduction to effective team/group work**
- Purpose:** To introduce students to the importance of effective group work, effective communication between group members and the management of conflict.
- Reading:** “Managing Conflict”
- Week 3** **Evaluation of Media information**
- Purpose:** To introduce students to media literacy and to examine strategies employed by popular media in conceptualizing, creating and perpetuating definitions of crime
- Readings:** “The Funhouse Mirror: Media Representations of Crime and Justice”, and, “Media Literacy: Skills for Evaluating Media Information”
- Week 4** **Experiences of Aboriginal People in Canada**
- Purpose:** To examine the impact of colonization and assimilation practices on Indigenous Peoples in Canada
- Reading:** “Aboriginal People in Canada: Culture, Colonialism, and Criminal Justice”
- Week 5** **Myths and moral panics**
- Purpose:** To examine the creation of crime myths and moral panics, by identifying the mythmakers and the policy responses.
- Readings:** “The Social Construction of Crime Myths”, and “The Myth and Fear of Child Abduction”
- Week 6** **Introduction to Policy analysis**
- Purpose:** To analyze the social, political, legal and economic context of policy development and implementation within the justice field.
- Week 7** **Policy Analysis Continued**
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Week 8 Oral Presentation Skills

Purpose: To introduce students to the mechanics of good oral presentations including the planning of a group presentation and effective delivery skills.

Week 9 Mid-term exam March 9, 2016.

Week 10 Group Presentations

Week 11 Group Presentations

Week 12 Group Presentations

Week 13 Group Presentations

Week 14 Wrap up/Final thoughts

Evaluation:

Report

Written Report on the effects of residential school experiences on Aboriginal people in Canada 20%

This assignment consists of an individually prepared 6-8 page formal research report (in a format consistent with APA 6.0 as detailed in the Criminal Justice Writing Manual) discussing your findings on the topic. An assignment guideline will be distributed and reviewed in class.

DUE DATE: March 23, 2016

Oral Presentations 25%

The presentations that students will be making in class will be a group presentation of 30-40 minutes on the group's policy report. The presentation dates will be drawn in class. The group presentation mark is a group-shared mark. Five percent of this grade will be based on peer evaluation.

DUE DATE: VARIOUS

Participation/In-class assignments 5%

Participation grades will be based on the completion of two in-class assignments which will be on dates unknown. These assignments may be individual or group assignments completed in class and turned in to the instructor at the end of class. These

assignments will be worth 2.5% each. There will be no opportunity to make up these assignments if you are not in class on the day they are assigned.

Written Assignment

10%

As part of this class, you are required to read a book, titled "Half-Breed" and answer questions based on your learning from this book. This assignment is required to be submitted to your instructor on the due date.

DUE DATE: February 19th, 2016

e. Exam and Final Reflection

40%

There will be a mid- term exam (30%) and a final reflection (10%). The mid-term will consist of some combination of true/false statements, fill-in the blank, multiple choice, short answer questions, and short essay responses. The final reflection will be discussed in class.

Mid Term Exam Date: March 9, 2016

6. STANDARD GRADING SYSTEM (GPA)

A+ = 90-100%	B = 73-76%	D = 50-59%
A = 85-89%	B- = 70-72%	F = 0-49%
A- = 80-84%	C+ = 65-69%	
B+ = 77-79%	C = 60-64%	

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

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, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student 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, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

1. INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES

1. Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance and participation in class is 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. For exams, students who arrive more than 15 minutes late, or after the departure of a student who has finished writing the exam, will not be permitted to write the exam.

All cell phones must be off during class time. No cell phone use or texting is allowed during class time. Save it for breaks, before/after class

2. Late Penalty

Students having a legitimate concern about meeting the due dates should consult with the instructor well in advance.

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.

3. Written Assignment Requirements

Written assignments for this course must be typewritten and double-spaced and follow the format detailed in the Criminal Justice Writing Manual. Written assignments must be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments received at the end of class, emailed, or not given directly to the instructor as noted may be penalized as defined under #2. Do not leave assignments under my office door or with any other instructor or staff person. Assignments must be given directly to the instructor or the assignment will be not be graded.

All assignments submitted for evaluation must be original and produced for the purposes of this course only. All assignments must be prepared by each student individually, unless I have given permission for a group submission.

4. Plagiarism

If you are concerned about your ability to properly credit and cite references, please see me ASAP. I am here to help you. The Criminal Justice Writing Manual discusses these issues in detail and provides information links for your assistance. Assistance can also be obtained by a reference librarian.

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense. If plagiarism is documented by your instructor, the penalty will be an automatic "0" for that assignment. A general rule to follow is that 5 or more consecutive words taken from a document or other source should either be placed in quotations and referenced appropriately, or, paraphrased and credited using a parenthetical citation.

5. 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 for further information.

6. Course Withdrawal

The last day to withdraw from this and other Winter 2015 courses without receiving a failing grade is March 9, 2015.

7. 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 Camosun College Calendar online.

8. 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.