

**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
**School of Arts & Science**  
**Criminal Justice**

**CRIM 154**  
**INTRODUCTION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**  
**FALL 2016**

**Instructor:** Wendy Taylor  
**Class:** Lambrick Park Secondary School  
**Office times** Meet with student after class, by appointment or by phone  
**Phone:** 250-516-3818(personal cell)  
**Email:** [taylorw@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:taylorw@camosun.bc.ca)

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**CALENDAR 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.

**LEARNER OUTCOMES:**

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

1. Communicate an 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. Track the progress of an accused person through the justice process and identify the various options the system has for holding offenders accountable for their crime.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Griffiths, C.T. (2007) *Canadian Criminal Justice A Primer*. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Nelson. **(required)**

*The Canadian Criminal Code* **(recommended)**

*Writing Reference Manual for the Criminal Justice Program* **(recommended)**

**COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Revision):**

This schedule is intended to provide you with a guide to the date on which particular topics will be dealt with in class. Additionally, it specifies dates when exams will be administered and assignments are due. Topic and activity dates may vary slightly due to the flow of the course. Exam dates and assignment due date will, most likely, not change. The instructor will advise you of any changes to this schedule as the course progresses.

- Week 1.** Introduction to course material and format  
Overview of the criminal justice system  
Reading/discussion: Chapters 1, 2.
- Week 2.** The Criminal Justice System  
Policing in Canada  
Reading/discussion: Chapters 3, 4.
- Week 3.** Police Powers and Decision Making  
Reading/discussion: Chapter 5.
- Week 4.** Police Strategies and Operations  
Reading/discussion: Chapter 6.
- Week 5.** Police Strategies and Operations  
Reading/discussion: Chapter 6.  
**Thought Paper 1 Due October 12, 2016 10%**
- Week 6.** The Criminal Courts and Court Process  
Reading/discussion: Chapter 7  
**Quiz 1. October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 10%**
- Week 7.** The Criminal Courts and Court Process  
Reading/discussion: Chapter 7.
- Week 8.** Criminal Prosecution and Pre-trial process  
Reading/discussion: Chapter 8.  
Sentencing  
Reading/discussion: Chapter 9.  
**COURT REPORT ASSIGNMENT DUE November 2nd, 2016 10%**
- Week 9.** Correctional Institutions and alternatives to confinement  
Reading/discussion: Chapter 10 & 11.
- Week 10.** Correctional Institutions and alternatives to confinement  
Reading/discussion: Chapter 10 & 11.  
Restorative Justice. Read Chapter 13.  
**Thought Paper 2 due November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 10%**
- Week 11.** **Quiz 2. November 23rd, 2016 15%**  
Release and Reintegration  
Reading/discussion: Chapter 12.

<b>Week 12.</b>	Release and Reintegration Reading/discussion: Chapter 12 and 14. <b><u>CRIMIAL JUSTICE SYNTHESIS DUE November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016</u></b>
<b>Week 13.</b>	Course Review
<b>Week 14.</b>	Future considerations Class wrap up <b><u>Final Exam - December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016</u> 15%</b>

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT:**

• Two Quizzes	25%
• Court Report	10%
• Criminal Justice Process Synthesis	20%
• Thought Papers	20%
• Final Exam	15%
• Participation	10%

**Exams (Quizzes and Final Exam) 40%**

Two quizzes (short exams) will be administered during the course. Quiz #1 will be worth 10% of final grade. Quiz #2 will be worth 15% of final grade. There will be a Final Exam during the final week of class. The Final Exam will be worth 15% of final grade.

**Court Report 10%**

You are required to attend and observe a criminal case in Provincial or Supreme Court at 850 Burdett Ave., in Victoria (Youth court is not an option). Your written report will summarize the proceedings observed. More information will be provided

**Criminal Justice Process Synthesis 20%**

Working in pairs, you are required to apply the knowledge gained in the course by guiding a criminally accused person through the criminal justice process from the point of arrest to release from the correctional system and reintegration back into society.

**Thought Papers (2 - 10% each) 20%**

**Thought Paper 1 -Assignment 10% of final grade Due October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Your thought paper should be a short (1 page minimum, 4 pages maximum) independently written paper where you explain your opinion towards the assigned question. For this short paper you can write using the materials from the lectures and assigned textbook for this class. No additional research or references is required but is accepted. In the thought papers, I am looking for evidence of critical thinking. While I will assign some points for grammar, writing style, and organization, the main focus of my feedback will be the degree to

which you demonstrate comprehension of the important concepts discussed in this course and discuss them adequately and concisely in the allotted page range. There are many interesting topics and issues that arise when examining the criminal justice system in Canada. You will be required to write your first Thought Paper on one of the following questions:

1. Why is the Charter of Rights and Freedoms important in our justice system?
2. Discuss the role of discretion in the criminal justice system. Would our criminal justice system be better with MORE or LESS discretion?
3. In considering police powers in Canada, do you feel that the police have too much power or not enough power to carry out their role? Why?
4. From your perspective, what do you feel are the biggest challenges for police officers today and why? What could be done?

### **Thought Paper 2 –Due November 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 - Assignment 10% of your final grade**

Your thought paper should be a short (1-page minimum, 4 pages maximum) independently written paper where you explain your opinion towards the question. For this short paper you can write using the materials learned from the lectures and assigned textbook for this class. No additional research or references is required but is accepted. In the thought papers, I am looking for evidence of critical thinking regarding an important course concept. While I will assign some points for grammar, writing style, and organization, the main focus of my feedback will be the degree to which you demonstrate comprehension of the important concepts discussed in this course and discuss them adequately and concisely in the allotted page range. Answer one of the following questions:

1. 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?
2. What is your opinion about the current role of victims in our justice system? Should they be more or less involved? What are the challenges or opportunities?
3. Surveys tell us there is huge public dissatisfaction with sentences imposed by the courts. How could this be changed? In particular, do you think the sentences need to be changed, or the way they are communicated or explained?
4. What challenges do judges face today in sentencing? What can be done?

### **Participation**

**10%**

Each student will receive a participation mark worth up to 10% of your total course grade. This category will be assessed according to each student’s attendance in class, participation and engagement in group work and participation and engagement in class discussions.

## GRADING SYSTEM:

### Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

### Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
<b>I</b>	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
<b>IP</b>	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. ( <i>For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3<sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.</i> )
<b>CW</b>	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

### 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, at Student Services or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://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.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES:**

#### **a. Attendance and Participation**

Regular attendance and participation in class are required. It is expected that students will arrive at class on time and that during class students will be attentive, non-disruptive, open minded, constructive and respectful of others. **The use of cell phones and/or texting and emails/web browsing are not allowed during class time unless part of class activity.** Students are encouraged to identify current events that directly relate to course content.

#### **b. Class Preparation**

It is expected that students will come to class prepared. Students are expected to have read the assigned readings prior to coming to class and to participate in class activities and discussions.

#### **c. Examinations**

Four exams will be administered as part of this course (Three quizzes and one Final Exam). Please attend class on time for the examination. If an examination is missed, a student may request a makeup examine. A make up examination will not normally be given but may be administered in situations of severe illness (with medical note) or significant personal issue (with supporting evidence). Each request will be considered individually. **Don't miss scheduled exams.** Exams will be administered at the beginning of each class

#### **d. Late Penalty**

All assignments must be completed and submitted at the beginning of class on the due date assigned. All late assignments will be penalized 10% of the total mark per day. The starting point for penalty assignment is immediately after assignments are received by the instructor at the beginning of class. Students having legitimate concern about meeting a due date should consult with the instructor well in advance.

**Arrangements for the submission/delivery of late assignments must be made with the instructor on an individual basis. Do not drop the assignment off at my office, college,**

**library or any other place or person. Assignments which are submitted contrary to these directions will not be graded.**

**e. Written Assignment Requirements**

Assignments must be completed in formal academic format following the style described in the Writing Reference Manual for the Criminal Justice Program. All work must be properly referenced using the APA format. All written assignments for this course must be type written, double spaced, on one side of 8.5"x 11" white paper. All assignments must only be stapled in the upper left corner (one staple only) and without any plastic or duo tang type covers. Assignments submitted contrary to these directions will not be graded.

All assignments submitted for evaluation must be the original work of the student (s) and produced for this course only. The submission of assignments completed for other courses may be considered as academic dishonesty.

**f. Course Completion Requirements**

Students must complete all evaluative requirements to receive a passing grade for this course. Students failing to complete all the requirements will receive an F grade.

**g. Plagiarism**

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

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

The Criminal Justice Department has a clearly articulated policy regarding 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.

**i. Course Withdrawal**

Please refer to the College Calendar for the last day to withdraw from this course without penalty.

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

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

**k. Student Responsibility**

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

Enjoy the course.