



## COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/crim.html>

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only.  
 It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records.  
 You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

### 1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	<a href="#">Stephen Howell, B.A., M.Phil. (Cantab)</a>		
(b)	Office Hours:	<a href="#">After each class or by appointment</a>		
(c)	Location:	<a href="#">Young 205</a>		
(d)	Phone:		Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	<a href="mailto:howells@camosun.bc.ca">howells@camosun.bc.ca</a>		
(f)	Website:			

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

*(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)*

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

1. Outline the legislative basis, structure and functions of the various components of the Canadian criminal justice system.
2. Identify how each component of the criminal justice system interrelates with other components and with the larger society within which it operates.
3. Track the process of an accused person through the critical decision-making points of the Canadian criminal justice system.
4. Identify and critically discuss contemporary issues affecting the structure and operations of the Canadian criminal justice (e.g. youth justice, female offenders and Aboriginal justice).

### 3. Required Materials

- (a) Griffiths, C.T. (2011) **Canadian Criminal Justice: A Primer**. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed., Nelson

### 4. Course Content and Schedule

## THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM – AN OVERVIEW

### **Week #1, February 7 & 9**

- Introduction to the course
  - Textbook
  - Website for course
  - Expectations of the course
- What is the criminal justice system (CJS)?
- What is ‘criminal’? ”What is” justice”?
- The foundations of the legal system
  
- **Read pages Chapter 1**

# **COMPONENTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

**Week #2 , February 14 & 16**

- Components of the CJS
- The flow of cases through the CJS / The crime funnel
- The role and responsibilities of governments in criminal justice
- Models of criminal justice administration
- The purpose or objectives of the criminal justice system
- Is the criminal justice system a 'system'?
- Addressing public perceptions of crime and the CJS
- Increasing community involvement in the CJS
- Gathering accurate information on crime rates and patterns
- Addressing issues in First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities
- Unique issues in Canadian geography and demography

**Read Chapter 2 and Chapter 14**

## **CANADA'S CRIMINAL LAW**

**Week #3, February 21 & 23**

- Criminal Code of Canada
- Other criminal legislation
- The role of the Charter
- Criminal Code exercise
- How to write short discussion posts and essay questions

**Reading: TBA**

**First Discussion Post due February 24, Responses February 27**

### **POLICING**

***Weeks #4 and 5 February 28 & March 2, 7 & 9***

- Police strategies
- A brief history of policing
- The structure of policing
- Police accountability
- Police powers:
  - Detain and arrest
  - Search and seizure
  - Use of Force
- Police investigation and discretion
- Police diversion
- Report to Crown Counsel
- Compelling the appearance of the accused
- Pre-court release by police

**Read Chapter 4 (pp 67 -77) & Chapter 5**

**Second Discussion Post due March 10, Responses March 13**

# **PROSECUTION AND PRE-COURT PROCEDURES**

## **Week #6, March 14**

- o Types of prosecutors
- o Prosecutorial diversion
- o Laying an information

**Read Chapter 8 (pp. 173 – 175)**

## **MID TERM EXAM – MARCH 16**

### **THE COURTS AND INITIAL APPEARANCES**

## **Week #7 April 4 & 6**

- The levels of court
- Specialized provincial courts
- Where do Judges come from?
- Judicial accountability
- First appearance
- Judicial interim release & pre-trial remand
- Defence Options/Legal aid
- Plea negotiation

**Read Chapter 7 (pp. 147 – 162) & Chapter 8 (pp. 177 – 185)**

## **ELECTIONS AND TRIALS**

## **Week #8, April 11 & 13**

- Electing the mode of trial
- Preliminary inquiry
- The Plea
- The trial
- Verdicts
- Appeals

**Read Chapter 8 (pp. 186 – 205)**

**Third Discussion Post due April 14, Reponses April 17**

## **SENTENCING**

## **Week #9, April 18 & 20**

- Purpose and principles of sentencing
- Sentencing options
- Concurrent and consecutive sentences
- How do Judges decide?
  - o Statutory guidance (S.718 CCC)
  - o Maximums and minimums
  - o Appellate decisions and legal precedents
  - o Aggravating and mitigating factors
  - o Pre-Sentence and Gladue Reports

Read Chapter 9

Fourth Discussion Post due April 21, Responses April 24

## **MANAGING SENTENCES: THE ROLE OF CORRECTIONS AND CONDITIONAL RELEASE**

Week #10, April 25 & 27

- Fine administration
- Overview of Corrections and Conditional Release
- Four types of corrections
- Objectives of corrections and conditional release

Reading TBA

## **CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

Week #11, May 2 & 4

- Structure
- Life inside prison
- Case Management
- Treatment programs
- Working in corrections
- Accountability in corrections
- How effective is incarceration?

Read Chapter 11

Fifth Discussion Post due May 5, Responses May 8

## **RELEASE AND RE-ENTRY**

Week #12, May 9 & 11

- Conditional Release and other releases
- Calculating key dates
- Parole Board decision making
- Reintegration process and supervision

Read Chapter 12

## **ALTERNATIVES TO CONFINEMENT**

Week #13 May 16 & 18

- Diversion
- Probation
- Conditional sentences
- Electronic monitoring
- Behaviour change programs

Read Chapter 10

# Synthesis Project due in class May 18

## Victim Services and Review

Week #14, May 23

Reading TBA

### FINAL EXAM - May 25

#### 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

#### Discussion Posts (4 posts) (20% 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 write 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 4 of the 5 weeks below and then choose 1 question to answer. **For example you might choose to respond to question (a) for the first post; (b) for the second post; question (a) for the fourth post; and question (c) for the fifth post. If you choose to complete all 5 posts, you will receive the marks for the best 4.**

Grading Rubric:

Research or original thinking in initial post	2 points
Thoroughness of initial post	1 point
Length of original post and response (Original post should be at least ten sentences, response at least five)	1 point
Writing skill	1 point
TOTAL	5 points

#### Exams (40%)

Two exams are scheduled for this course.

**Midterm – March 16 (15%)**

**Final – May 25 (25%)**

Each will sample your recollection of the content from the textbook readings as well as the material addressed in class (powerpoint, video presentations, etc). This is a content heavy course so be sure to read your textbook, and make notes on both the text and the classroom presentations.

The format may include multiple choice, short answer, fill in the chart, definitions, and short essay

#### Criminal Justice Process Synthesis (40%)

**Due: May 18th, in class**

The purpose of this assignment is to apply the knowledge gained within this course to a specific accused person 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.

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. You may choose to do **either** an “Early Stages” or a “Later Stages” synthesis. Early stages takes the offender from the crime until the point a verdict is rendered following a trial. If you choose the Later Stages option, a scenario will be provided to you, and you will take the offender from the verdict to conditional release.

- 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. No offenders will receive a life sentence

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, Crown Counsel, Police officer, Parole Board member) Please use the grading rubric that will be provided in class and 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.

**It is strongly recommended that you provide a draft of your report to the instructor on or before May 11 in order to receive some feedback prior to finalizing the assignment.**

## 6. Grading System

*(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)*

### 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
I	<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.
IP	<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>
CW	<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.

## 7. 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 the College web site in the Policy Section.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED

## INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES

### 1. Course completion requirement

In order to pass this course you must complete **all** exams and assignments. You must write the two exams, submit four out of five discussion posts, and write the synthesis. Even if you have accumulated more than 50 percentage points without completing all components, you will not receive a passing grade.

### 2. 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 or your device may be removed for the duration of the class period.

### 3. 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.

#### **4. 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) unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by me in advance of the assigned due date.

#### **5. 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! Academic honesty is a critical trait for any scholar. It shows that you recognize the contributions of others and use those contributions with respect.