



School of Arts & Science
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

CRIM 188-03
Issues in Criminal Justice
Winter 2017

COURSE OUTLINE

This course introduces students to topical issues in criminal justice. Current issues will be explored including overrepresentation of aboriginal offenders, mental illness and drug addictions. Media influence on perceptions of crime and justice policy is examined. Students are introduced to policy analysis, group work and presentation skills.

1. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- (a) Instructor: Wendy Taylor
- (b) Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:30 to 5:00pm and Fridays – 9 to 10am
- (c) Phone: Office: Y305B
- (d) E-mail: taylorw@camosun.bc.ca,
- (e) Prerequisite: Crim154
- (f) Class Time: Wednesday and Fridays - Section 3 – 10:00 to 11:20 am Y303C

2. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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

3. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Campbell, M. (1982). *Halfbreed*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Mandatory class readings are also provided on D2L by course weeks.

4. COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE (subject to revision)

Week of January 9th

Introduction to course, course topics, organization and expectations
Introduction to effective team/group work
Media and Crime

Readings: D2L weeks 1 & 2
Halfbreed Text

Week of January 16

Media Literacy and Introduction to effective team/group work

Purpose: To introduce students to media literacy and to examine strategies employed by popular media in conceptualizing, creating and perpetuating definitions of crime

To introduce students to the importance of effective group work, effective communication between group members.

Readings: D2L weeks 1 & 2

Week of January 23

Myths and moral panics
Project Charters

Purpose: To examine the creation of crime myths and moral panics, by identifying the mythmakers and the policy responses.

Readings: D2L

Weeks of January 30 and February 6th

Experiences of Aboriginal People in Canada
Presentation Skills

Purposes-

To examine the impact of colonization and assimilation practices on Indigenous Peoples in Canada

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

Readings: D2L

Week of February 13th Reading Week – no classes

Week of February 20th

**Mental Health and the Justice System
Introduction to the policy cycle**

Purpose: To analyze the social, political, legal and economic context of policy development and implementation within the justice field.

Readings:D2L

Week of February 27th

**Drugs and the Justice System
Policy Development**

Readings: D2L

Week of March 6th

**Conflict Management and Group Presentation Preparation
Midterm March 8th, 2017**

Readings: D2L

Week of March 13th

**Other topic TBA
Group Presentation Preparation**

Readings: D2L

Week March 20th Group Presentations

Week of March 27th Group Presentations

Week of April 3rd Group Presentations

Week of April 10th Wrap up/Final thoughts

] Evaluation:

a. Term Paper **25%**

This assignment consists of an individually prepared 8-10 page formal research report (in a format consistent with APA as detailed in the Criminal Justice Writing Manual) discussing your findings on one of the following topics:

- A) The effects of residential school experiences on Aboriginal people in Canada
- B) Mental Illness and the Justice System
- C) Drugs and Crime

An assignment guideline will be distributed and reviewed in class.

DUE DATE: March 22nd, 2017

b. Group Presentations **20%**

Each group will be responsible for delivering a 30 to 40-minute presentation to the class on the policy issue assigned in class and a two page summary of the presentation. The presentation dates will be drawn in class. The group presentation mark is a group-shared mark.

Additional information on this assignment will be provided in class.

DUE DATE: Presentation date will be assigned in class

c. Participation/In-class assignments **25%**

Participation grades will be based on the completion of in class assignments for groups related to weekly topics (Group Charter, Skills Development and Policy Problem Definitions). Each of these 3 assignments will be worth 5%. An additional 10% will be for class participation and a self evaluation will be due the last day of class.

d. Thought Paper **10%**

As part of this class, you are required to read a book, titled "Half-Breed" and your Thought Paper will be a personal reflections and thoughts related to the book. More information on this assignment will be provided in class.

DUE DATE: February 15th, 2017

e. Exams **20**

There will be a mid- term exam 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 and will cover course materials covered in class up to the week prior to the midterm.

Mid Term Exam Date: March 8th, 2017

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.

7. 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.

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 2017 courses without receiving a failing grade is March 13, 2017.

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.
