



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

**CRIM-270-D01**  
**Criminal Law**  
**Winter 2021**

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

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

Ω Please note: This outline will *not* be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

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### **1. Instructor Information**

<b>(a) Instructor</b>	Len Statz
<b>(b) Office hours</b>	Online availability: Mondays 5:30 – 6:30 (via appointment)
<b>(c) Location*</b>	Y205 (phone 250-370-3333)
<b>(d) E-mail</b>	statzl@camosun.bc.ca
<b>(e) Website</b>	<a href="https://online.camosun.ca/d2l/home/190524">https://online.camosun.ca/d2l/home/190524</a>

\*Please note that due to COVID-19, I will not be in the office and will not have access to the above-listed phone line. The best way to reach me is via D2L messaging or to the above email address.

### **2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Articulate the basic principles, procedures and substantive areas of criminal law.
2. Identify the various sources of criminal law and critique the criminal justice system, its offences and defenses.
3. Explore by the use of papers and other activities areas of criminal law that are of interest.
4. Articulate an appreciation of criminal law in practice by participating in a mock trial that as closely as possible replicates a true criminal trial.

### **3. Required Materials**

(a) Textbook

Verdun-Jones, S. (2020) Criminal Law in Canada, Cases Questions and the Code, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition.  
Toronto, ON: Nelson Education Ltd.

This course will generally follow the textbook, so it is important for you to keep up with your readings. You may obtain a copy of the textbook from either the Camosun College Bookstore or the publisher directly.

(b) CRIM 270 Cases

Cases from various Canadian Courts will be assigned during the course and posted to the D2L. These cases will supplement the textbook and are required reading.

#### 4. Course Content and Schedule

CRIM270-D01 will be held Tuesdays from 5:30 to 8:20 pm, beginning January 12, 2021. The final class is April 13, 2021. The following schedule is intended to describe the topics we plan to cover and, generally, the order in which we will cover those topics, but is subject to change.

- Week 1 (January 12, 2021)
  - Introduction to the course and course requirements
  - Introduction to Criminal Law
  - Types of criminal offences
  - Criminal procedure review
  - Courts and the key players

Textbook: Preface and Chapter 1

- Week 2 (January 19, 2021)
  - Burdens of proof
  - Crimes, Quasi Criminal Offences and Regulatory Offences
  - The *Charter* and Criminal Law
  - Actus Reus – basic elements

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

- Week 3 (January 26, 2021)
  - Actus Reus continued
  - Omissions
  - Specific Duties

Chapter 2

- Week 4 (February 2, 2021)
  - Causation
  - Voluntariness
  - Automatism

Chapter 3

- Week 5 (February 9, 2021)
  - Mens Rea
  - History and application
  - Significance in offences
  - Necessity of proof
  - Subjective and objective mens rea

Chapter 4

- Week 6 (February 16, 2021)

**READING WEEK – NO CLASS**

- Week 7 (February 23, 2021)
  - Mens Rea continued
  - Types of intent
  - Knowledge
  - Mens rea as a defence

Chapter 4

- Week 8 (March 2, 2021)

**Examination 1**

- Week 9 (March 9, 2021)
  - Objective liability
  - Criminal negligence
  - Manslaughter
  - Strict liability
  - Absolute liability

Chapters 5 & 6

- Week 10 (March 16, 2021)
  - Parties to offences
  - Aiding and Abetting
  - Counselling
  - Introduction to defences

Chapter 7

- Week 11 (March 23, 2021)
  - Defences continued
  - Protected persons and immunity
  - NCRMD
  - Automatism

Chapter 8

- Week 12 (March 30, 2021)
  - Defences continued
  - Mistake of fact/law
  - Provocation/Intoxication

Chapters 9 & 10

- Week 13 (April 6, 2021)
  - More defences
  - People in authority
  - Justification and excuse
  - Necessity and duress

Chapter 11

- Week 14 (April 13, 2021)
  - And yet more defences
  - Alibi
  - Self-defence and defence of property

Chapter 12

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

### (a) Two examinations (55% of total grade)

Examination 1 – March 2, 2021 (25%)

Examination 2 – Exam week (30%)

Each will examine your recollection/understanding of the content from the assigned readings and class lectures/materials. Exam 1 will be based on materials from weeks 1 to 7. Exam 2 will be based on materials from weeks 9 to 14, except as otherwise indicated by the instructor.

**Failure to attend an exam will result in a mark of ZERO (0) and an 'F' Grade in the course, pursuant to point #4 under Instructional Policies.**

### (b) Case Battle (35% of total grade)

The class is divided into teams in which part of the team will play the role of Crown Counsel and part of the team will play the role of defence counsel. Team sizes will depend on the number of students registered for the course.

The defence team finds a criminal case on point with the issues in this class. Defence provides the case, plus a synopsis of the case, to the Crown and to the instructor. In the synopsis, the defence provides their grounds for arguing in favor of the accused. Crown then writes a “reply” to the case and the defence argument. This is delivered to the defence and the instructor.

And then the battle begins!

Crown and defence arguments will be reviewed and decided by other class members acting as appellate judges. The rules, order of argument, and the date of battle will be clarified via handout later in the term. Please note: this all happens in March. It is meant to be a fast, focused, assignment.

### (c) Participation (10% of total grade)

Regular attendance and active participation are required. It is expected that you will join the virtual classroom on time, be attentive, non-disruptive, constructive and respectful. As part of your assessment, you will be required to submit a one-page argument in support of the mark you feel you should receive. Your participation mark will be based upon:

- i. Attendance and punctuality.
- ii. Class preparation (completing assigned readings and other preparatory tasks in a timely manner – i.e. when assigned/due).
- iii. Engaging with classmates during small group discussions.
- iv. Offering your thoughts/perspectives during virtual lectures, either verbally or in the chat feature.
- v. Maintaining a positive, constructive and respectful demeanor towards peers and instructor.

### (d) Mock Trial

Due to COVID-19, a mock trial is not feasible this semester 😞.

## 6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

## 7. Recommended Materials to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

Will be provided to students via D2L and email.

## 8. College Supports, Services and Policies



### Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

### College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

### College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence, Student Ancillary Fees, Academic Integrity, Grade Review & Appeals, Student Misconduct and Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities and Student Penalties and Fines.

## A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

### 1. 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		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

### 2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

## B. 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 at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> 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 are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
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.

## C. Instructional Policies

### 1. Class Preparation and Participation

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 for all classes takes a great deal of your time. This is a content-heavy course with a substantial amount of reading to be completed, so you should devote time daily/weekly to completing the assigned readings and you should do so from the beginning of the semester.

Classes will be conducted via Blackboard Collaborate. You will be sent a link to each class. It is expected that you will join online class on time, be attentive, non-disruptive, constructive and respectful.

During class, please activate your video camera when participating in group discussions or class discussions. These are isolating times, so any visual interaction with other humans is beneficial to us all.

### 2. Late Penalty

All assignments must be completed and submitted on the date and at the time assigned. The penalty for late assignments will be 15% per day. An extension can be granted only with at least 72 hours' notice and will only be granted for good reason; supporting documentation may be required.

### 3. Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Dishonesty

This part is simple. Do not cheat and do not attempt to present someone else's work/ideas as your own. These or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please see the Academic Integrity Policy:

#### **4. Course Completion Requirements**

You **must** complete all evaluative requirements (two exams and case battle) to receive a passing grade in this course. Unfortunately, if you do not complete all of these requirements, you will receive an F grade.