

**Child Rights and the Criminal Justice System**

<b>COURSE:</b>	<b>CRCJ 4001 D</b>
<b>TERM:</b>	<b>Winter 2015</b>
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	<b>Fourth-year standing in B.A. Honours in Criminology and Criminal Justice</b>
<b>CLASS:</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time: Mondays, 2:35pm – 5:25pm</b> <b>Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location.</b>
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b> <b>(CONTRACT)</b>	<b>Dr. Roberta Sinclair</b>
<b>CONTACT:</b>	<b>Office: Loeb C563</b> <b>Office Hrs: Monday 5:30 p.m. or by appointment</b> <b>Email: roberta.sinclair@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</b>

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You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The emergence of the child as a subject of rights has been influenced by several legal, social, and political developments. Using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as a framework, several global child protection issues will be examined. The conceptual framework for the development of rights for children; international legal standards and mechanisms; and, the definition of the child and general principles will be drawn on throughout the course. The primary objective of this course is to familiarize students with the various rights that children

have as well as violations of those rights. Drawing on international examples of issues wherein the role and meaning of “child rights” continue to be debated, the focus of the course will be on exploring legislation/conventions, youth engagement, and implementation of child rights in various contexts. Students will be exposed to the basic knowledge and tools necessary to gain a critical understanding of children's rights. To augment the lecture material and facilitate a practical understanding of the information presented, guest speakers, class discussion, and a seminar style teaching structure are incorporated in the course. International examples as well as Canadian research will be drawn upon.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Listed on the course outline.

## **EVALUATION**

**(All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade)**

**1: Critical Assessment of Media Portrayal of “Child/Childhood” 20%**

**2: Group Seminar Project**

- A) Seminar Presentation: 25% presentation, 5% co-group member evaluation (30% total)
- B) Research Paper: 25% group mark, 10% co-group member evaluation (35% total)

**Attendance/Participation at Seminar Presentations 15% Ongoing**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

## **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The

Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

**SCHEDULE** *Outline may be subject to change.*

**JAN. 5 Introduction to the Course**

**JAN. 12 History of Canadian Youth Justice System and Child Rights in Canada**

- <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx> (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- The Youth Criminal Justice Act: Summary and Background. Department of Justice, Government of Canada. 2013.
- Lansdown, Gerison. (2014). "25 years of UNCRC: Lessons learned in children's participation", *Canadian Journal of Children's Rights*, 172-190.

**Guest Speaker:** Honourable Senator (Retired) Landon Pearson, International Child Rights Advocate "*Youth Voices in the Justice System*"

**\*\*\*Seminar Group and Topic Assignment \*\*\***

**JAN. 19 Internet Crime Research Sources \*\*\*Macodrum Library\*\*\***

- **Library Presentation:** Criminology Reference Specialist

**JAN. 26 Child and Youth Representation/Conceptualization**

- Rush, Emma and La Nauze. (2006). *Corporate Paedophilia: The Sexualization of Children in Australia*. Discussion Paper 90. The Australian Institute. ISSN 1322-5421.
- Karaian, L. (2014) "Policing 'Sexting': Responsibilization, Respectability and Sexual Subjectivity in Child Protection/Crime Prevention Responses to Teenagers' Digital Sexual Expression" *Theoretical Criminology*. 18(3): 282-299.
- International Bureau for Children's Rights. *Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime Programme*.

**Guest Speaker:** International Bureau for Children's Rights

**FEB. 2 Ethics and Child Participation in Research**

- Unicef Fund. Ethical Research Involving Children. Pages 21-92.
- International Institute for Child Rights Development Documents:
  - o Annual Report: *Creating Bridges of Understanding with Children and Young People*.
  - o Fact Sheet: *Right to Participation*.
  - o *Circle of Rights: Intentional Planning for Social Change*.

**Guest Speaker:** Michael Montgomery, International Institute for Child Rights Development

**FEB. 9 Cyber Violence and Children**

- Mazowita, Benjamin and Mireille Vezina (2014). *Police-reported cybercrime in Canada, 2012*. The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Juristat*. ISSN 1209-63-93.
- Cotter, Adam and Pascale Beaupré. (2014). *Police-reported sexual offences against children and youth in Canada, 2012*. The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Juristat*. ISSN 1209-6393.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Shanly Dixon, Research Fellow Technoculture Art & Games Concordia University

**\*\*Assignment 1 Due \*\***

**READING WEEK FEB. 16-20****FEB. 23 Child Protection and the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

- Danduarnd, Yvon. (2014) "Article 19 of the CRC and the criminal justice system's duty to protect children against violence." *Canadian Journal of Children's Rights*. 44-84.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Susan Bennett, Children's Hospital Eastern Ontario

**MARCH 2 International Crimes Against Children**

- Denov, Myriam and Natasha Blanchet-Cohen. (2014). "The rights and realities of war-affected refugee and asylum-seeking children and youth in Quebec: Making children's rights meaningful." *Canadian Journal of Children's Rights*. 18-43.
- Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. [http: www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net)

**Guest Speaker:** Sgt. Jane Boissenault, RCMP, National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains

**MARCH 9 Seminar Presentations (Assignment 2a, in class, as assigned)**

**MARCH 16 Seminar Presentations (Assignment 2a, in class, as assigned)**

**MARCH 23 Seminar Presentations (Assignment 2a, in class, as assigned)**

**MARCH 30 Seminar Presentations (Assignment 2a, in class, as assigned)**

**APRIL 6 Wrap Up**

**\*\*Assignment 2b due in class\*\***