

## Legal Research Methods CRCJ 3003A Fall 2013

**Instructor:** Dr. Roberta Lynn Sinclair

**Class Time:** Monday 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Office Hours:** Monday 5:30 p.m. or by appointment

**Website:** CU Learn

**Email:** Roberta.sinclair@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

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### Course Description and Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to familiarize students with issues pertinent to research methodologies in the study of the legal components of criminology. Emphasis is placed on critical evaluation and examination of crime and criminal justice literature and methods. The focus of the course is on IT-enabled crimes and the challenges that these offences raise within the Canadian legislative framework. Discussion on offenders, victims, and law enforcement will also demonstrate the complexity of current and future legislative responses. International legislative responses will also be reviewed. To augment the lecture material and facilitate a practical understanding of the research skills presented, guest speakers and class discussion will be incorporated in the course.

**Required readings** are listed on the course outline and are available at the Reserves office at Carleton library and/or on CU Learn. Additional required readings may be added.

### Course Evaluation

**Assignment 1:** *Research Questions, Outline, and Sources* (Group assignment) 15%, Due Oct. 7

**Assignment 2:** *Critical Assessment of Media Portrayal of Internet Crimes* 15%, Due Oct. 21

**Assignment 3:** *Seminar Presentation* 20% presentation, 5% class evaluation (25% total) Due in class

**Assignment 4:** *Research Paper* 20% paper, 10% peer evaluation (30% total), Due Dec. 9

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

**Supplemental and/or grade raising examinations are no longer available.**

Students are responsible for all material covered in the lectures, required readings, guest speakers and lab sessions. Evaluation procedures are outlined in the undergraduate calendar.

There will be a penalty of 10% per day for late assignments. Specific assignment requirements and guidelines will be discussed in class (see course outline). Assignments must be typed in double space in 12 pt. Written work will be graded for: relevance, accuracy of content, organization, clarity of expression, analytic skill, presentation, proper citation and bibliography. These elements will be discussed in class.

**Students are responsible to keep an extra copy of any assignment that is submitted for evaluation.**

### **Policy on Discrimination and Sexual Harassment**

Carleton University is a community of faculty, staff and students who are engaged in teaching, learning and research. Its members are part of the community at large and are governed by the law common to all persons. But membership in the academic community also entails certain rights and responsibilities. The University respects the rights of speech, assembly, and dissent; it prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, ancestry, place or origin, colour, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status, political affiliation or belief, or handicap that is defined as such in the Ontario Human Rights Code; it requires tolerance and respect for the rights of others; and it promotes an environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth.

### **For Religious Observance**

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

### **For Pregnancy**

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

### **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 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 which cannot be resolved directly with 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.

### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and 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.

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*).

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

**Notice of Collection (for LexisNexis)**

At Carleton University, we recognize and respect the importance of privacy. Personal information is gathered and used only in accordance with current privacy legislation under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). LexisNexis requires proof of your student status in order to offer you their service without cost. Carleton has signed an agreement with LexisNexis protecting the personal information provided by the University. Should you choose to subscribe to their service, please review the LexisNexis privacy policy at:

<http://www.lexisnexis.ca/corporate/privacy.php>

If you have any questions regarding the collection or use of your personal information by Carleton University please contact:

Margaret Haines, FIPPA Coordinator  
Room 360H, Maxwell MacOdrum Library

TEL: 1 613 520 2600 ext. 8260

FAX: 1 613 520 2750

EMAIL: [margaret\\_haines@carleton.ca](mailto:margaret_haines@carleton.ca)

## Course Outline

### Sept. 9            **Introduction to Course and Overview**

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

- Kerr, M., Kurtz, J., and Blatt, A. (2006). *Legal Research: Step by Step, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Toronto: Emond Montgomery Publications. Part I: The Basics of Legal Research.
  
- “The Criminology of Computer Crime. Chapter Three.” In Taylor, R., Fritsch, E., Liedervbach, J., and Holt, T. (2006). *Digital Crime and Digital Terrorism*. Second Edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

### Sept. 16           **Library; Group Work on Research Project**

- Hagan, Frank. (2005). *Essentials of Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology*. Chapter One: Introduction to Criminal Justice Research Methods, pages 1-32, Boston: Pearson Education, Inc..
  
- Finding Bills & Statutes  
[http://www.library.carleton.ca/subjects/findbills\\_statutes.html](http://www.library.carleton.ca/subjects/findbills_statutes.html)
  
- Courts Tribunals and Caselaw  
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/subjects/law/cases.html>

### Sept. 23           **Library**

- Booth, W., Colomb, G., and Williams, J. (1995). *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 3 and 4.
  
- General Law Guide  
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/subjects/law/index.html>

### Sept. 30           **Criminal Justice Inquiry**

- Larsen, Sonja and Bourdeau, John. (1997). *Legal Research for Beginners*. Chapter Two: Getting From Here to There, pages 13-23, New York: Barron’s.
  
- Kirby, S., and McKenna, K. (1989). *Experience, Research, Social Change. Methods From the Margins*. Chapter 1: Getting Ready. Toronto: Garamond Press.
  
- **Guest Speaker:** Learning Support Services (LSS) “Working in Groups” and “Effective Presentations”

