

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2004 A - INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL LAW IN CONTEXT
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 1000
TERM:	Fall/Winter 2007-08
CLASS:	Day & Time: Wednesday 11.35am-2.25pm
	Room: Tory Building 446
INSTRUCTOR:	Maeve W. McMahon B.Soc.Sc. MA (Criminology) PhD (Sociology)
CONTACT:	Office: Loeb D586 (mail should be addressed to C473 Loeb)
	Office Hrs: Fall term: Tuesday and Wednesday, 3-4:30pm
	Winter term: Monday and Wednesday 3-4:30pm
	(also often available immediately <i>after</i> class)
Telephone:	613-520-2600 ext. 8095
Email:	Maeve McMahon@carleton.ca
Website:	www.MaeveMcMahon.com

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations in this course are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangement. Please note the deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations is November 9, 2007 for December examinations and March 14, 2008 for April examinations. With regard to accommodations for religious obligations and pregnancy, please see <http://www.carleton.ca/law/accommodations.htm>.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT: This course examines issues in criminal law and justice from criminological and social scientific perspectives. In addition to addressing theoretical matters, we will discuss many practical aspects of, and experiences in, the criminal justice system.

The course objectives are to advance your theoretical and empirical knowledge of criminal law and justice, and your analytical ability to critically examine related issues. The objective is further to thoroughly familiarize students with the organizational components of policing, courts and criminal justice in Canada.

Each class will involve a lecture. We will start some classes with a discussion of immediate issues in criminal law (for example recent legal and policy-related decisions, or a particular criminal act that has occurred). Students are encouraged to pay attention to media sources, and to bring relevant items to the attention of the instructor and classmates. 'Media' in this context refers to the print media, as well as radio and television.

During the year there will be several guest speakers that will address topics in the practical operation of the criminal justice system. We will also benefit by watching at least one movie that is relevant to criminal law matters, and we will discuss the movie afterwards. A tour of the Ottawa courthouse will facilitate the objective of providing students with observational, as well as academic and professional knowledge, of criminal law and the criminal justice system.

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Curt T. Griffiths **Canadian Criminal Justice: A Primer**. Third Edition. Scarborough, ON: Thomson/Nelson. 2007. This textbook can be purchased at the Carleton University bookstore.
2. '**Introduction to Criminal Law in Context**,' a course-pack compiled by Maeve McMahon and available at the University Bookstore.
3. Additional handouts may be provided in class.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES:**Attendance 12%**

Mid-year examination during the December formal examination period. 2 hours. December 6-22 (including Saturdays). Closed book. **44%**

Final examination during the final formal examination period. 2 hours. April 11-29 (including Saturdays) Closed book. **44%**

Format: Each examination will have a section of multiple choice questions worth 30%, a section involving short answers worth 30%, and an essay worth 28% (Note: grading of essays will include an evaluation of the content as it reflects students' knowledge of, and ability to discuss, information and ideas contained in course materials. Grading will also take matters of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and clarity of expression into account).

Additional information:

A detailed course schedule, including weekly topics, objectives, and readings, will be provided to students. More information about evaluation procedures and criteria will also be provided in class in the weeks prior to examinations.

Class attendance is mandatory. It is your responsibility to be present in class, and for examinations. Any request for an extension concerning examinations must be supported by a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation. Students must complete both examinations in order to meet course requirements and to be eligible to pass the course.
