

Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 2004 C - An Introduction to Criminal Law in Context
PREREQUISITES: LAWS 1000
TERM: Fall/Winter 2007-08
CLASS: **Day & Time:** Thursday 18:00-21:00
Room: 132 Azrieli Pavillon
INSTRUCTOR: Gary R. Barnes B.A. LL.B.
CONTACT: **Office:** Sessional Office - C 476 LA (Loeb)
Office Hrs: By Appointment
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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 DESCRIPTION AND FORMAT :

This course is an introduction to the Canadian criminal justice system. Although the instructor is a practicing criminal defence counsel with over 30 years experience as well as 5 years as a part time Assistant Crown Attorney the perspective will be broader than these viewpoints alone. The course will examine criminal procedure (the criminal justice system) and substantive law. The first half of the course will deal with the procedural aspects including institutions, classification of offences, bail, conduct of a case, plea bargaining, and juries. The second half of the course will deal with the substantive criminal law and related topics including the Charter, criminal liability, evidence, defences, sentencing and appeals. The review will be from the viewpoint of the participants. The roles of the accused, victims, police, defence counsel, Crown Attorney, judges, juries, media, politicians and the public will all be illustrated. Current issues before the criminal courts, legislatures and the media will also be discussed. Students are encouraged to follow the media reports on current issues so that they can participate in class discussions. The intention is to provide students with insight into the system and substantive law as a springboard to further studies.

Reference will be made to the text, specific readings, the Criminal Code and case law.

The course will be taught through lectures and discussions and guest lecturers. Students will be encouraged to participate by applying and critiquing the various concepts, case law, and components of criminal procedure.

A detailed course outline as well as weekly assigned readings will be given on the first day of class.

COURSE READING MATERIALS :

a) Required Texts:

Criminal Law in Canada : An Introduction to the Theoretical, Social and Legal Contexts (Toronto: Carswell, 2002)
2007 edition of The Criminal Code

Martin's Annotated Criminal Code 2006 (Canada Law Book)
or Tremeeear's Annotated Criminal Code (Carswell)
or Carswell's pocket edition 2006 is acceptable

b) Supplementary Readings :

A list of readings will be given on the first day of class for those students who may wish to explore certain topics in more detail.

METHOD OF EVALUATION :

The grade in this course will be based on the following :

1. **50 %** **Mid-course examination**
 2 hour examination, multiple-choice, closed book
 - to be held during formal exam period in December

2. **50 %** **Final examination**
 2 hour examination, multiple-choice, closed book
 - to be held during formal exam period in the spring

The examinations will cover the assigned readings and class lectures. The examinations are not cumulative. Each examination will cover the material that was presented during that term. However the student will need to retain the general concepts taught in the first term to successfully complete the second term examination.