

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Department of Law
LAWS 2004
Sections G & V**

AN INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL LAW IN CONTEXT

Fall/Winter: 2007-2008
Section G: Friday, 2:35 p.m.; Room 624 Southam
Section V: Broadcast time - Monday, 3:30 p.m.

Instructor

R.P. Saunders, D589 Loeb
Office Hours: Thursday, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
By appointment: 520-2600 (ext. 6714)
E-mail: ron_saunders@carleton.ca. Be sure to use your Connect account in corresponding with me and please include "LAWS 2004" in the subject line.
Course Web site: Logon at <http://webct.carleton.ca/>

General

The purpose of this course is to provide a broad introduction to the Canadian criminal legal system and to the institutions, processes, rules and actors that comprise it. The goal is to situate the criminal law within its general social setting and to examine the interrelationship between the aspirations and practices of each. In the latter part of the course, the class will look at the criminal law in its more traditional formulations as found in the Criminal Code and in the cases, along with specific current issues in Canada, including sexual assault, conditional sentencing and racism in the criminal legal system.

N.B. The prerequisite for enrolling in this course is the successful completion of LAWS 1000.

Materials

(A) Required text:

Criminal Law in Canada: An Introduction to the Theoretical, Social and Legal Contexts (Toronto: Carswell, 2002) - Available at the Bookstore.

(B) Supplementary (on Reserve in the Library):

1. *Criminal Law*, 3rd ed. - Kent Roach (KE8809.R62 2004)
2. *Canadian Criminal Justice: A Primer* 2nd ed. - C. Griffiths & A. Cunningham (HV9960.C2 G76 2002)
3. *Learning Canadian Criminal Law*, 7th ed. - D. Stuart & R. Delisle (KE8808.5.L42 1999)

Web Site

The PowerPoint presentations used in class will be posted on the course Web site along with course announcements, grades, and other materials. To logon, go to <http://webct.carleton.ca/>. Only students registered in the course have access to the site; your Username and Password to sign on are the same as those for your Connect account (make sure that your Connect account has been activated first). **It is imperative that the student have access to the course Web site.**

In WebCT, we will be using the Fall term version of the course for both terms. You can hide the Winter version on your *My WebCT* page in the following manner:

Log into WebCT

In the "Course List" channel, click the "Edit Course List" icon (it is the pencil-like icon in the upper right)

Put a check mark beside the Winter version of the course

Click the "Hide" button

Click the *My WebCt* tab (upper left)

Evaluation

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Fall Term Midterm | 15% |
| 2. December Examination | 35% |
| 3. Winter Term Midterm | 15% |
| 4. April Examination | 35% |

Explanation of evaluation scheme:

- The December and April examinations will be held during the formal examination periods; the exact dates, times and locations will be announced by the Scheduling Office during the respective terms. Both examinations are closed book and will consist of multiple choice questions. The April examination will cover material only from the Winter term.
- The Fall term midterm will consist of an essay question and will be written on Saturday, October 27 at 1 - 3 p.m. It will be a closed book exam. Complete details will be provided before the midterm.
- The Winter term midterm will also consist of an essay question and will be written on Saturday, February 9, 2008, at 1 - 3 p.m. It will be a closed book exam. Complete details will be provided before the midterm.

Please note:

- A medical certificate or other appropriate documentation must be provided to support any request to write a deferred examination.
- Both sections of the course write the same exams
- The midterms will be available for pick-up once they are marked. Section G students' midterms will be available from the instructor and Section V students' midterms will be available from the Media Distribution Centre, D299 Loeb.

Syllabus

The course syllabus will generally follow the topics as presented in the "Table of Contents" in the text. A list of the specific topics, required readings (all from the text) and schedule for the Fall term will be available at the beginning of term; however, the general topics and the order in which they are presented are as follows (subject to some variations as required by time constraints):

- Introduction
- Context of criminal law (where does it come from?; how do we define it?)
- Theoretical issues
- The production of criminal law (the roles of the Constitution, of Parliament and of the courts)
- Actors in the system - Police
- Actors in the system - Prosecution and Defence
- Plea bargaining
- Actors in the system - Judges

9. Actors in the system - Victims
10. Actors in the system - The Accused
11. Sentencing and Punishment

Please note that **Friday, October 5**, is University Day at Carleton and undergraduate classes are not held.

The Winter term schedule will be distributed at the end of the Fall term.

Requests for Accommodations

For Students With Disabilities: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations in this course are required to contact a co-ordinator 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.

For Religious Obligations: Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligations 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(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students or instructors 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.

Grades and Grade Adjustments

Students must complete all the requirements of the course to obtain a passing grade. Furthermore, be advised that there is the possibility the final marks in these sections of LAWS 2004 will be adjusted if they are markedly different from the distribution and/or average of the marks received in other sections of this course.

Policy and Procedures

For a general statement on instructional offences, special examinations, prerequisites, etc., please read carefully the Department of Law's "Course-Related Policy and Procedure Statement" (attached to hard copies). This document can also be found at: <http://www.carleton.ca/law/policy.htm>. You are strongly encouraged to read it carefully.

Please note as well that there are several services available on campus that can provide you with advice on studying, reviewing, writing exams and essays, etc.; for example there is the Writing Tutorial Service (4th Floor of the Library), the Student Academic Success Centre (SASC 302 Tory) and the Learning Commons (4th Floor of the Library).