

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Department of Law and Legal Studies
LAWS 2301
Sections A & T**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Fall 2012

Section A: Monday, 11:35 a.m.; Please check with Carleton Central for current room location.

Section T: Video on Demand; Rogers Ottawa Channel 243

Instructor

Ron Saunders, D589 Loeb

Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:30 - 2:00

By appointment: 520-2600 (ext. 8069)

E-mail: ron_saunders@carleton.ca. Be sure to use only your Connect or cmail account in corresponding with me and please include "LAWS 2301" in the subject line.

Course website: Logon at <https://culearn.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, practically and theoretically, and to examine the interrelationship between the aspirations and practices of each. The class will also look in detail at the participants and parties in the criminal justice system, and in particular examine the mechanisms of accountability and control for these actors and their relative effectiveness. Current examples and reforms will be discussed throughout the course to highlight the pertinent issues and problems within the system.

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

Materials

Required text:

Criminal Law in Canada: An Introduction to the Theoretical, Social and Legal Contexts (Toronto: Carswell, 2002) - Available (new and used) at the Carleton University Bookstore or Haven Books, 43 Seneca Avenue, Ottawa (havenbooks.ca).

Supplementary (on Reserve in the Library; do not buy):

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)

Web Site

The PowerPoint presentations used in class will be posted on the course Web site along with course announcements, grades, and other materials (the course uses the **Moodle** site, **not** WebCT. To logon, go to <https://culearn.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 or cmail account. **It is imperative that the student have access to the course website.**

Evaluation

1. Midterm	30%
2. Written assignment	20%
3. December Examination	50%

Explanation of evaluation scheme:

1. The December exam will be held during the formal examination period; the exact date, time and location will be announced by the Scheduling Office during the term.
2. The midterm will be written on **Saturday, October 20, at 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** It will be a closed book exam. Complete details will be provided before the midterm.
3. The details of the written assignment will be announced during term.

Please note:

- i) A medical certificate or other appropriate documentation must be provided to support any request to write a deferred examination or to hand in the assignment late.
- ii) Both sections of the course write the same assignment and exams.
- iii) The penalty for a late assignment will be 2 marks for each day it is past the due date.
- iv) The midterm and assignment will be available for pick-up once they are marked 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. The general topics and the order in which they are presented are as follows (subject to some variations as required by time constraints):

1. Introduction
2. Context of criminal law (where does it come from?; how do we define it?)
3. Theoretical issues and perspectives
4. The production of criminal law (the roles of the Constitution, Parliament and the courts)
5. Actors in the system - Police
6. Actors in the system - Prosecution and Defence
7. Plea bargaining
8. Actors in the system - Judges
9. Actors in the system - Victims
10. Actors in the system - The Accused

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* at least two weeks prior to the midterm. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangement. Please note that the deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for an accommodation for formally scheduled December examinations is November 9, 2012.

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 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 2301 will be adjusted if they are markedly different from the distribution and/or average of the marks received in other sections of this course. All grades must be approved by the department and the Faculty of Public Affairs.

Policy and Procedures

For a general statement on instructional offences, special examinations, prerequisites, etc., please read carefully the Department of Law and Legal Studies' "Course-Related Policy and Procedure Statement" (attached to hard copies). This document can also be found at:

<http://www1.carleton.ca/law/ccms/wp-content/ccms-files/PolicyMarch2012.pdf>.

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).