

**Course Outline**

**COURSE:** LAWS 2301B - CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

**TERM:** Winter 2012

**PREREQUISITES:** LAWS 1000

**CLASS Day & Time:** Wednesday 11.35am-2.25pm

**Room:** Please check with Carleton Central for current room location

**INSTRUCTOR:** Maeve W. McMahon, Associate Professor  
B.Soc.Sc. MA (Criminology) PhD (Sociology)

**CONTACT:** Office: Loeb D586 (mail should be addressed to the Law Department, C473 Loeb)

**Office Hrs:** Wednesday 3.15-4.30pm (also often available immediately *after* class)

**Telephone:** 613-520-2600 ext 8095

**Email:** You can e-mail me through the course website on WebCT. You can also reach me at [Maeve\\_McMahon@carleton.ca](mailto:Maeve_McMahon@carleton.ca)

"Students with documented disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities include physical, mental, and learning disabilities, mental disorders, hearing or vision disabilities, epilepsy, drug and alcohol dependencies, environmental sensitivities, as well as other conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC at 613-520-6608, early each term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to the Paul Menton Centre by 7 March 2012 for April exams."

Also available at [http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/faculty/acom\\_statement.html](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/faculty/acom_statement.html) . For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, 613-520-2600 x. 5622 or their website: [www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** 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 objectives are further to thoroughly familiarize students with the organizational components of policing, courts and the administration of criminal justice in Canada.

Classes will typically involve a lecture. We will start some classes with a discussion of immediate issues in criminal law and justice (for example recent legal and policy-related decisions, or particular criminal acts that have 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, television and the Internet.

During the course there will be several guest speakers that will address topics in the practical operation of the criminal justice system. We will also have a field trip (during class time) to the Ottawa courthouse.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

1. Curt T. Griffiths **Canadian Criminal Justice: A Primer**. Fourth Edition. Scarborough, ON: Thomson/Nelson. 2011. This textbook can be purchased at the Carleton University Bookstore.
2. Herbert Packer "Two Models of the Criminal Process." in **The Limits of the Criminal Sanction**. London: Oxford University Press, 1968. Available online.
3. Nils Christie "Conflicts as Property," **British Journal of Criminology**, (1977) 17:1-14. Available online.
4. Additional readings may be provided in class and/or made available via WebCT.

## **EVALUATION**

**(All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade)**

**Attendance 12%** At each class you will sign attendance sheets. Please make sure that your signature is legible, and sign with a black or blue pen. Please do not use a pencil or other coloured pens for signing.

**Mid-term examination** in class on Wednesday February 15. 2 hours. Closed book. **40%**

**Format:** The exam will have a section of multiple choice questions worth 20%;and a section of True/False and short answer questions worth 20%.

**Final examination** during the final formal examination period. 2 hours. April 11-24 (including Saturdays). 2 hours Closed book. **48%**

**Format:** The final exam will have a section of multiple choice questions worth 19%, a section of True/False and short answer questions worth 19%, and an essay section worth 10%. (Note: grading of essays will include an evaluation of the content as it reflects students' knowledge of, and ability to discuss, information and ideas presented in this course. 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 made available to students. More information about items and topics to be covered in the exams, and 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.

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