

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2302 B – Criminal Law
TERM:	Winter 2010-11
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 1000
CLASS:	Day & Time: Monday - 2:35-5:25 pm Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
INSTRUCTOR:	Professor Maeve W. McMahon, B.Soc.Sc., M.A. (Criminology), Ph.D. (Sociology)
CONTACT:	Office: D586 LA (Loeb) Office Hrs: Monday - 12:30-2:00 pm (also often available immediately <i>after</i> class) Telephone: 613-520-2600 x 8095 Email: Maeve McMahon@carleton.ca

"Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary Letters of Accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me in order to make the necessary arrangements as early in the term as possible, but no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first test requiring accommodations. For further information, please see: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html . If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 15, 2010 for Fall exams and March 12, 2011 for Winter exams**. For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, x. 5622 or their website: www.carleton.ca/equity

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines aspects of criminal law in their social context. We will address issues concerning the police, the courts, and corrections. Specific topics include police powers and accountability; the organization of court systems in Canada; the processes through which criminal cases are prosecuted in Canada; the role of the defence attorney and the range of defences that can be advanced on behalf of the accused; the purpose and principles of sentencing, as well as sentencing options; and key features of corrections, including community alternatives to imprisonment.

The course objectives include advancing your empirical knowledge of criminal law and the administration of criminal justice in Canada. An objective is also to advance your analytical ability to critically examine and engage related issues.

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 (practitioners of criminal law). We will also watch a movie pertinent to the administration of criminal justice. (Please note that one of the essay topics on the final exam will ask you to consider how having practitioners as guest speakers enhances and complements your social scientific and academic understanding of issues in criminal law and justice).

REQUIRED TEXT

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.

(Note: As this was also the text for my course LAWS 2301B in the fall of 2010 you may be able to purchase the text second hand from the bookstore, at Haven books, or from a student that took the course in the fall).

ADDITIONAL READINGS

2. Herbert Packer "Two Models of the Criminal Process," in **The Limits of the Criminal Sanction**. London: Oxford University Press, 1968. Available online and also on reserve at the library.
3. Nils Christie "Conflicts as Property," **British Journal of Criminology**, (1977) 17:1-14. Available online and also on reserve at the library.
4. Additional readings may be assigned during the course (e.g. relevant media articles)

EVALUATION

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

Attendance 12%

Mid-term examination 40%
(in-class on Monday February 14. 2 hours. Closed book)

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 48%
(during the final formal examination period in April. 2 hours. Closed book.)

Format: The exam will have a section of multiple choice questions worth 19%; and a section of True/False and short answer questions worth 19%; and a short 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.

The instructor will be using WebCT to post information relevant to the course so please ensure that you are able to access and monitor your account.
