

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Department of Law

LAWS 2302C: CRIMINAL LAW

INSTRUCTOR **John Hale**, B.Sc., LL.B., B.C.L. (Contract instructor, criminal lawyer)

HOW TO REACH ME **Phone:** (613) 695-4253

Office: **c/o Hale Criminal Law Office**
Suite 101, 116 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, K2P 0C2

At Carleton: Deliver any mail or messages to the Department of Law, 4th floor Loeb Building

Fax: (613) 695-8500

e-mail: jhhale@mac.com

OFFICE HOURS **Office hours** are by appointment only.

LECTURE SCHEDULE Thursdays 6:05 – 8:55 PM in UC 180

PREREQUISITE Laws 1000 or permission of instructor

WEB SITE [See WebCT](#)

REQUIRED READING (1) **Stuart, Don and Ronald Delisle:**
 Learning Canadian Criminal Law (11th ed.), Carswell, 2009

 (2) *Pocket Criminal Code 2012* (Carswell, 2011) OR
 The Practitioner's Criminal Code 2012 (Student Edition)
 (Alan Gold, Ed.; LexisNexis/Butterworths, 2011) OR
 Tremeeear's Annotated Criminal Code 2012 (Carswell, 2011)
 OR
 Martin's Annotated Criminal Code 2012 (Student Edition)
 Canada Law Book, 2011

All of the above are *required purchases*, i.e., you must have the Stuart & Delisle text and one version of the *Criminal Code*. The texts are or will be available at the University bookstore. Used copies of the *2011 Criminal Code* are more than adequate; earlier editions are useful but in many respects obsolete, and you may purchase them at your own risk. Steer clear of used versions of the 10th Edition of the Stuart and Delisle text, no matter how cheap you find it, as the book has been substantially revised in the 11th edition and page references will be very confusing. You should have no difficulty finding a used copy of the Stuart & Delisle text. You are permitted to bring copies of these required and recommended readings to the exams in December and April.

I am using the same texts in Laws 2302 as I used in my section of Laws 2301. If you took Laws 2301D with me, you will not need to buy any additional texts for Laws 2302.

In lieu of buying a *Criminal Code*, you may download the *Code* (and related statutes) from the Justice Canada website:

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/>.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

- (1) **Mid-term examination (in class)**, 3 hour open book, scheduled for February 16th covering the first 6 lectures *as taught* as opposed to *as per the course outline* (although hopefully these will be the same).
- (2) **Final examination**, 3-hour open-book, to be held in the formal exam periods at the end of the course (April 11-24, 2012), covering lectures 8-12 (lecture 7 is the mid-term exam); again, the exam covers the lectures *as taught*.
- (3) **Bonus points**: up to 4 bonus points available, to be explained in class and by email.

“Open book”, for the purpose of exams, means that the following materials may be brought into the examination room: (1) any required text, including an annotated *Criminal Code*; (2) your lecture notes (or any notes that you shared with a study group or that you have with the permission of their author), and (3) any material downloaded from the course website, including the instructor’s lecture notes and PowerPoint slides; (4) any e-mails sent by the instructor. You may NOT make use of a computer during the exams, except with permission of the Paul Menton Centre.

Grade breakdown: The exam that you do better on will be worth 60% of your final grade; the other exam will be worth 40% of your grade. An additional 4 points will be available as bonus points.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS / MARKERS

There are two teaching assistants assigned to this course. Mary Beth Bryne can be contacted at mary-beth_bryne@hotmail.com; Cecilia McClellan can be contacted at cmcclel3@connect.carleton.ca.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

It is only fair to set out the instructor's bias at the outset of the course. The course is taught by a practising criminal defence lawyer who agrees with the following:

- (1) the paramountcy and necessity of the Rule of Law;
- (2) the notion that a person is presumed to be innocent of any criminal wrongdoing, subject to a guilty plea or unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, on the basis of probative and relevant evidence that is legally admissible, and following a trial which accords with the principles of fundamental justice and with the procedures set out in the *Charter of Rights*, the *Criminal Code*, and other legislation;
- (3) the statement that the Canadian criminal justice system, despite its flaws, is fundamentally sound, and that the perceived flaws within the system are attributable to individuals within the system at least as often as they are attributable to the system's inherent flaws and limitations.

The course is practice-oriented rather than theory-oriented. The instructor, recognizing his innumerable yet still growing number of limitations, tends to de-emphasize the "sociology" aspect of the course that is emphasized in other sections, and is inclined to treat the course as a "law school course". The instructor's objective is to instill in the students a solid understanding of basic criminal law concepts, including the essential elements of crimes (*actus reus* and *mens rea*), the burden of proof, and defences to criminal charges.

Discussion of these concepts will inevitably include discussions of the social policies that led to the creation of various offences and defences, but the approach is generally pragmatic. It is the instructor's ultimate objective that students be informed about the workings of the criminal justice system in Canada, with all its strengths and deficiencies, and that students who wish to criticize or defend the criminal justice system do so on the basis of facts rather than on emotion, gut feeling and anecdotal evidence.

The main text for the course is *Learning Canadian Criminal Law* by Stuart and Delisle. This text is intended for use by first-year law school students. Please buy the Eleventh edition (2009), as the tenth edition (2006) is out-of-date. Avoid buying used *Criminal Codes*, as recent amendments render old Codes obsolete: the current edition is 2012, although a 2011 *Code* should be satisfactory.

A schedule of planned topics and readings is attached (Handout 2, Course Outline). There may be changes to the schedule, as some topics may take more or less time to discuss than foreseen at present; the accuracy of the schedule will also depend on the release of new decisions from the Supreme Court of Canada and lower courts, and also on questions asked by the class. Unless otherwise advised, students are responsible for reading the entire text in the order set out on the Course Outline.

Given the volume of readings expected of you, and the complexity of the material, you are strongly advised to avoid the temptation to save up the readings until the final days before the exams. Experience has shown that such a strategy monumentally backfires in the vast majority of cases. Keep up with the readings from the very beginning of the course and you will find the course material to be engaging, thought provoking and easily digestible; wait a few weeks and you will find the prospect unpleasantly daunting.

The lecture notes will be posted weekly, in summary form, on the course website. Review problems and sample exams will also be posted later on in the term.

All students are encouraged to attend class personally in order to facilitate classroom discussion of the concepts discussed. All students are encouraged to attend the review session in April. Experience shows that understanding and interest are enhanced by personal attendance and by active participation in the classroom.

This will be my 22nd year teaching this course. I hope that you enjoy the course as much as I enjoy teaching it!

"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://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accommodations> . If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by 7 March 2012 for April exams. For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, x. 5622 or their website: www.carleton.ca/equity
