

Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 3306 B – Crime, Law, Process & Politics

TERM: Winter 2008/09

PREREQUISITES: LAWS 2004

CLASS: Day & Time: Monday – 6:05-8:55 pm
Room: A720 LA (Loeb)

INSTRUCTOR: Tim Wightman
(CONTRACT)

CONTACT: Email: Tim.Wightman@Ontario.ca
Office Hrs: By appointment
Telephone: 613-239-1200

“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 PMC by March 6, 2009 for April exams.” Also available at 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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of the course is to help students develop a critical understanding of the constant evolution of Canadian criminal law. A substantive examination of several specific types of offences will be presented with extensive reference to the *Criminal Code of Canada*, other legislation, and case law. The course will concentrate on offences that are currently the focus of significant public debate. These include; offences included in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, firearms offences, terrorism offences and offences committed via the Internet. Lectures will explore issues surrounding these types of offences from all viewpoints.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students should have a solid understanding of how criminal law develops in Canada in response to issues of public concern. Students should understand and be able to critically analyze the development of criminal law in Canada and the law’s response to the ever-changing political atmosphere in our country.

MATERIALS USED

Required Text – Coursepack
Optional Supplemental Text – *Criminal Code of Canada*
Additional material may be distributed in class.

TEACHING METHOD

Weekly lectures to be supplemented with class discussions and guest speakers.

METHOD OF EVALUATION – All components must be completed in order to pass this course

The final grade for the course will be based on the following components:

1. **Mid-term essays** (30%)
 - Students will be responsible for a research paper that discusses subject matter from the course. Topics will be assigned in class.
2. **Final Exam** (70%)
 - Exam will be based on assigned readings and class lectures from the full term.

COURSE TOPICS

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1.	January 5	a) Introduction to the Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Course Outline</i> b) Overview of Course Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Illicit Street Drugs and offences under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> • <i>Gun Crimes and Gun Control</i> • <i>Terrorism offences</i> • <i>Cyberspace and the Criminal Justice System</i>
2.	January 12	Illicit Street Drugs and Offences under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Substantive Law - CDSA</i> • <i>Historical and current</i> • <i>Recent changes</i>
3.	January 19	Illicit Street Drugs and Offences under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why legislate / prosecute CDSA offences?</i> • <i>Links between Drugs and other offences</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Do they exist?</i> • <i>Supervised injection sites</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>What are they?</i> b. <i>Do they represent a solution or a problem?</i>
4.	January 26	Gun Crimes and Gun Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Substantive Law</i> • <i>Historical analysis</i> • <i>Recent Changes</i> • <i>Mandatory minimum sentences</i>
5.	February 2	Gun Crimes and Gun Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gun Violence in Canada</i> • <i>Is there a link between gun violence and illicit drugs?</i> • <i>Political response</i> • <i>Firearms Advocates</i> • <i>Firearm Registry</i>
6.	February 9	Gun Crimes and Gun Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contrasting the American approach</i>
	February 16	Reading Week

7. February 23 Terrorism Offences

- *Substantive Offences*
- *Historical analysis*
- *Recent changes*

8. March 2 Terrorism Offences

- *Canada's Response to 9-11*
- *R. v. Mohammad Momin Khawaja*
- *International response to terrorism – a comparative analysis (United States, Great Britain, Australia)*

9. March 9 Crime in Cyberspace

- *Substantive Offences*
- *Historical analysis*
- *Recent changes*

10. March 16 Child Exploitation offences

- *The investigator's perspective*
- *Political response – **Christopher's Law, Sex Offender Information Registry Act***
- *International Efforts*

11. March 23 Professor Evaluation**The Internet as an Investigative tool**

- *Facebook, YouTube and other social networking sites and their emergence in the Criminal justice system*
- *Investigation vs. Invasion of Privacy*

12. March 30 Review

- *Class discussion of legal developments arising during the course of the academic semester*

Exam Review

- *Review of the subject material covered during the course of the academic year*
- *Answer student questions concerning the upon final examination*