

## Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 4305A – Criminal Justice Reform
TERM:	Winter 2017
PREREQUISITES:	Fourth-year Honours standing and LAWS 2301 and LAWS 2302
CLASS:	<b>Day &amp; Time:</b> Thursday 11:35 – 2:25 <b>Room:</b> Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
INSTRUCTOR:	Diana Young
CONTACT:	<b>Office:</b> LA C574 <b>Office Hrs:</b> Mondays 12:00 to 1:00 or by appointment <b>Telephone:</b> (613) 520-2600 ex 1981 <b>Email:</b> Diana_Young@carleton.ca

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**Academic Accommodations:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website ([www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/>

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance

compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the Internet. Plagiarism is a serious offence.

More information on the University's **Academic Integrity Policy** can be found at:  
<http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

### **Department Policy**

The Department of Law and Legal Studies operates in association with certain policies and procedures. Please review these documents to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations.

<http://carleton.ca/law/current-students/>

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

There are a number of mechanisms through which changes to criminal justice policies and the criminal law occur. Legislators respond to criminal justice issues by enacting new law or amending existing law. Courts respond to new challenges by reinterpreting legal rules, implementing changes that seem to be mandated by the *Charter* – and sometimes finding ways of resisting law reform measures taken by legislators. In addition, reform may occur through the changes in discretionary practices of criminal justice officials and policies at a more micro level. Less clear are the broader social forces that motivate reform. In this course we will consider the political, economic, and cultural conditions that problematize aspects of criminal justice, the mechanisms through which courts, legislatures and other actors in the criminal justice system interpret and respond to pressures for change, and examine some contemporary examples of criminal justice reform.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

The course readings can be accessed electronically through the MacOdrum Library collection of journals and e-books, or will be posted on CuLearn.

## **EVALUATION**

Grading for the course will be based on the following:

Two take home assignments: 20% each

Research paper: 30%

Group presentation: 20%

Class participation: 10%

The take home assignments will be based on the material covered in class. The first will be posted on cuLearn on January 26<sup>th</sup> and due on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The second will be posted on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and due on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The research paper can be on any topic related to criminal justice reform, and should be 10 to 12 pages in length. It will be due on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Students should provide me with a brief outline of their research project well before the due date to ensure that it meets the course requirements.

Students will be asked to sign up for one of seven groups that will give presentations to the class on various criminal justice reform topics over the last four days of the course. Students from two groups not presenting on a particular day will be asked to provide a brief written comment on each presentation. I will summarize the comments and forwarded them to the presenters.

The class participation grade is based on a combination of attendance, frequency of students' participation in class discussions and the degree to which students' comments and questions show thoughtfulness and preparation. Students who fail to submit comments on the class presentations will lose participation marks.

***Extensions on assignments will only be granted in extenuating circumstances, such as a verifiable medical condition or family emergency. Students requesting extensions will be required to provide appropriate documentation.***

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Department and of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **January 5**

Introduction to course

Sites of reform – criminal law, criminal justice policy and discretion

Readings:

Shiner, R.A. (2009). Theorizing Criminal Law Reform. *Criminal Law and Philosophy* 3(2), 167-186.

### **January 12**

Formal Mechanisms of Criminal Justice Reform:

- a) Legislators and the Courts
  - Social Movements Theory: What makes law-makers act?
  - Tough on Crime legislation and judicial resistance
  - Judicial Discretion and the Rule of Law
- b) Royal Commissions of Inquiry
  - Framing the issues and public debate
  - Politics, value conflicts and legalization

Readings:

Stuart, D. (2012). The Charter Balance Against Unscrupulous Law and Order Politics. *S.C.L.R.* 57, 13 – 38.

Shiner, R.A. (2009). Crime and Criminal Law Reform: A Theory of the Legislative Response. *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 12, 63 – 84.

Keller, M.R. (2014). When is the State's Gaze Focused? British Royal Commissions and the Bureaucratization of Conflict. *Journal of Historical Sociology*, 27(2), 204 – 235.

*R. v. Cuerrier* (1998), 2 S.C.R. 371 (excerpt posted on cuLearn).

*R. v. Mabior* (2012), 2 S.C.R. 584 (headnote posted on cuLearn).

*R. v. Michael* (2014), O.J. No 3609 (posted on cuLearn).

**January 19**

## Problematizing Criminal Justice: Politics, Culture, Technology and Society

- a) Criminal justice reform responses to individual incidents
- b) Technological change and criminal law reform
  - On-line “bullying” – controversies over privacy and security
  - The politics of legislative amendments
  - Courts, “sexting” and the Criminal Code

## Readings:

Slane, A. (2013). Sexting and the Law in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 22(3), 117 – 122.

Jorgensen, L. (2013). In Plain View? R. v. Jones and the Challenge of Protecting Privacy Rights in the Era of Computer Search. *U.B.C. Law Rev.* 46, 791.

Schmidt, S. *Tories Say a Vote Against Bill Would be a Vote for Child Porn: Privacy Watchdog, Opposition Parties Up in Arms* The Calgary Herald, (February 15, 2012) p. A3

R. v. Spencer, [2014] S.C.J. No. 43 (posted on cuLearn).

**January 26**

\*\*\*First take-home assignment posted\*\*\*

## Problematizing Criminal Justice, continued

- a) Risk theory and criminal justice reform
- b) The political economy of criminal justice and reform
- c) Social Movements Theory and the criminal Justice System
  - Cultural Resources, Framing and Being Heard
  - Sentencing, Hate Crimes and LGBT Rights

## Readings:

Fuist, T.N. (2013). Culture Within Sites, Culture as Resources, and Culture as Wider Contexts: A Typology of How Culture Works in Social Movement Theory. *Sociology Compass*, 7(12), 1044 – 1052.

Doyle, A. (2006). How Not to Think About Crime in the Media. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 48(6), 867 – 885.

Moran, L.J. (2004). The Emotional Dimensions of Lesbian and Gay Demands for Hate Crime Reform. *McGill Law Journal*, 49, 925.

Webster, C.M. & Doob, A.N. (2004). Penal Reform “Canadian Style”: Fiscal Responsibility and Decarceration in Alberta, Canada. *Punishment and Society*, 16(1), 3-31.

**February 2**

## Risk Theory and legal principle

## The Victims’ Rights Movement

- a) Agency and Law and Order
- b) Risk Theory and Criminal Justice Reform

## Readings:

Sandra Walklate, "Risk and Criminal Victimization: Exploring the Fear of Crime" in Hannah-Moffat, Kelly, and O'Malley, P. (Eds.). 2007. *Gendered Risks*. Routledge, 165-181.

Stanbridge, K. & Kenney, J.S. (2009). Emotions and the Campaign for Victims' Rights in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 51(4), 473 - 509.

*Jane Doe v. Metropolitan Toronto Police* [1998], O.J. No. 487, (1998) 39 O.R. (3d) 487. (excerpt posted on cuLearn).

Young, Diana (2015). Individual Rights and the Negotiation of Governmental Power: The Risk of HIV Transmission and the Canadian Criminal Law. *Social and Legal Studies* 24(1), 113-134.

**February 9**

\*\*\*First take-home assignment due\*\*\*

## Wrongful Conviction

- a) Technology, wrongful conviction and exoneration
- b) Policing, Crown Policy and Reform

## Readings:

Gerlach, N., (2004). Corrective Justice: Media Events and the Public Knowledge of DNA in the Criminal Justice System. Gerlach, N., *The Genetic Imaginary*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Kirk Makin, "The Reliance on Science as a Cure for Injustice", *The Globe and Mail*, November 22, 2004, p. A 1.

Howden, P.J., (2002). Judging Errors of Judgment: Accountability, Independence & Vulnerability in a Post-Appellate Conviction Review Process. *Windsor Y.B. Access Just.*, 21, 569

John B. Gould, (2008). The Lessons of Wrongful Convictions. *Criminal Justice Ethics*, 27, 107-111.

Unknown, (2011). Eyewitness Identification Reform. *Judicature*, 95, 105-106

Excerpt from FTP Heads of Prosecutions Working Group, "Report on the Prevention of Miscarriages of Justice", pp. i – vii (available on CuLearn)

**February 16**

## Implementing Criminal Justice Reform: Good intentions and unexpected outcomes

- a) Punishment, treatment, rehabilitation
- b) Regulation of pornography

## Readings:

Hannah-Moffat, Kelly., (2011) Empowering Prison: Neoliberal Governance. In Hannah-Moffat, Kelly, *Punishment in Disguise*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 162 - 187.

Pound, R., (1900). Law in Books and Law in Action. *American Law Rev.*, 12.

Cossmann, B. (2003). Disciplining the Unruly: Sexual Outlaws, Little Sisters, and the Legacy of Butler. *U.B.C.L. Rev.*, 36, 77.

**February 23**

\*\*\*\*\*Reading Week – No Class\*\*\*\*\*

## **March 2**

\*\*\*Second take-home assignment posted\*\*\*

Community-Based and Restorative Alternatives  
Aboriginal Justice

Readings:

Randall, M. (2013). Restorative Justice and Gendered Violence? From Vaguely Hostile Skeptic to Cautious Convert: Why Feminists Should Critically Engage with Restorative Approaches to Law. *Dalhousie L.J.* 36, 461.  
Courtemanche, Z.T. (2015). The Restorative Justice Act: An Enhancement to Justice in Manitoba? *Man. L.J.*, 38(2), 1.  
Diana Young, "Power and Resistance in Community-Based Sentencing" in Dawn Moore and Aaron Doyle, eds., *Critical Criminology in Canada* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011) pp. 162-182. (Available on CuLearn)

## **March 9**

Prison Reform and Penal Abolition

Readings:

Campbell, M. E. (2006). Gone but Not Forgotten: Should Judges Be Allowed to Remedy by Re-Sentencing?". *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 48(2), 305-314.  
Seymore, A. "Lawsuit Sheds Light on Solitary; Squalid Conditions and Abuse of Force Detailed in Documents" (July 8, 2016) *The Ottawa Citizen* p. A-1.  
Tutton, M. "Governments Face Wave of Lawsuits for Prison Injuries Amidst Rising Violence" (December 29, 2016) *The Canadian Press*  
West, G.D. & Morris, R. (2000) Introduction to the Case for Penal Abolition. In West, G. and Morris, R. (eds.), *The Case for Penal Abolition*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press, 3-12.  
Davis, A.Y. & Rodriguez, D. (2000). The Challenge of Prison Abolition: A Conversation. *Social Justice* 27, 212 – 218.  
Piché, J. (2009). Penal Abolition: A Different Kind of Reform. *Criminal Justice Matters*, 70, 30-31.

## **Student Presentations**

### **March 16**

\*\*\*Second take-home assignment due\*\*\*

Group 1: Prostitution

Group 2: Assisted Suicide

**March 23**

Group 3: Terrorism

Group 4: Drug Policy – Decriminalization, Safe Injection Sites

**March 30**

Group 5: Youth Justice Reform

Group 6: Mental Illness and Criminal Law

**April 6**

Group 7: Aboriginal Justice

Summing Up