
Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 4305A – Criminal Justice Reform: Theory and Practice

PREREQUISITES: LAWS 2004 or LAWS 2304 and Fourth-year Honours standing

TERM: FALL 2007

CLASS: Day & Time: WEDNESDAY, 6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
Room: 206 TORY BLDG

INSTRUCTOR: Cathia Gilbert-Riley, M.A. Law
(Sessional)

CONTACT: Telephone: (613) 237-8828
OFFICE: C476 LA (LOEB BLDG)
Office Hrs: WEDNESDAY, BEFORE AND AFTER CLASS –
OR By Appointment as needed.
Email: rtriley6@cs.com (All email will be answered within 24 hrs of receipt.)

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations in this course are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangement. Please note the deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations is November 9, 2007 for December examinations and March 14, 2008, for April examinations. With regard to accommodations for religious obligations and pregnancy, please see <http://www.carleton.ca/law/accommodations.htm>.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & CONTENT:

This course is designed to present fourth year students with criminal law and correctional reform issues at an advanced level. In particular, the course focuses on the issues surrounding the process and substance of criminal justice reform. The course content includes a broad examination of these issues, and studies several specific law reform projects and topics. Students will be required to do background reading in the various areas before each class and are expected to participate actively and fully in the class discussions, debates, presentations and guest lectures, with an emphasis on critical analysis and critical thinking.

REQUIRED READING:

Required readings will be drawn from a range of sources. All articles will be available on Reserve in the main library and in the Chet Mitchell Law Resource Centre (D494 LA) under the course number; they will also be available in a course pack, for purchase in the Bookstore. The reading list will be distributed on the first day of class. Articles chosen by students prior to their presentations will be sent to the rest of the class by email.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES:

Midterm Exam	25%
Class Presentation	25%
Final Paper	40%
Class Participation	10%

EVALUATION COMPONENTS:***Midterm Exam – 25%***

In the fifth class a take-home exam will be assigned. It is to be in essay format and conform to the requirements for all written assignments. It will be due in two weeks, to be handed in to the instructor before class, NOT left in the law department dropbox. Please note, exams handed in after the due date/time will be marked down one grade (e.g. B to B-) for each day they are late without a valid medical reason supported by a doctor's certificate.

Class Presentation – 25%

Students are required to give a presentation in class on the topic of their final paper. Students may choose a topic of criminal law reform that interests them, and are required to make an oral 15-minute presentation, with visual aids, to the class, outlining the issues and their critical approach to the topic. **Each student will be required to distribute an appropriate reading to the class, one week prior to the presentation.** Classmates will evaluate the other students' presentations as an exercise in honing their own critical thinking skills. These evaluations will be taken into account by the instructor, although the final mark for each student will be that given by the instructor, less 1 full mark of the overall final, for every other presentation that has not been attended and marked by the presenting student.

Final Research Paper – 40%

The research paper should be 16-18 typed, double-spaced pages in length, and contain proper footnotes and an **annotated** bibliography (as example, see the Purdue University website at http://owl.English.purdue.edu/handouts/print/general/gl_annotatedbib.html). Papers are expected to be well researched, and are due to be handed in to the instructor on **Wednesday November 21st** at the beginning of class, NOT left in the department dropbox.

A short outline of your topic must first be approved by the instructor.

Your paper will (though not necessarily in this order):

- Clearly identify the issue and its qualification as a CJS reform.
- Identify all of the factors leading to, or calling for, this reform and give a statement of your argument. Your essay is to be analytical not descriptive.
- Clearly identify the related theoretical constructs that are relevant to understanding your argument.
- Set out related facts and relative analyses/explanations of others (academics).
- Analyze and critically assess possible explanations and conclusions from your own analysis, based on the evidence.
- Include a conclusion that provides and supports an understanding of the problem and its chosen or proposed solution(s).

Class Participation – 10%

This mark is **NOT** for attendance, but for **ACTIVE** participation in each class.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **September 19** Essay topics chosen
- **September 26** Short outline of Essay/Presentation topic **submitted to instructor** for approval
- **October 3** Presentations begin
NOTE: You will be responsible to distribute your article to the class, **one week prior to your presentation date.** This may be done by emailing your outline and article to the instructor who will forward it to the rest of the class.
- **October 10** Take-home **exam assigned**
- **October 24** Take-home **exam due**
- **November 28** **Final paper due**

NOTES:

- ***Written assignments:*** These are expected to be in 12-font, double-spaced with one-inch margins. Please adhere to the required page limits. Assignments will **not** be accepted by e-mail.
- ***Late assignments:*** These will be marked down one grade (e.g. B to B-) for each day they are late without a valid medical reason supported by a doctor's certificate.
- ***Attendance and participation:*** You are responsible to be present in class to receive and present assignments, enter into class discussions, as well as to attend and critique presentations. Alternate arrangements will only be made where there is certified medical or other allowable reason for absence. Your own presentation will be marked down 1 full mark for each classmate's presentation that you do not attend and mark, without a valid medical reason supported by a doctor's certificate.
- ***Grades:*** The numerical-letter grade equivalencies employed in this course are the same as those listed in the Undergraduate Calendar.
- Students must complete **all** the requirements of the course to obtain a passing grade.