

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 4305A – Criminal Justice Reform
TERM:	Fall 2010
PREREQUISITES:	Fourth-year Honours standing and 1.0 credit from LAWS 2004 [1.0] (no longer offered), LAWS 2301, LAWS 2302
CLASS:	Day & Time: Thursday 1805-2055
	Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT)	Lawrence Buhagiar
CONTACT:	Office: C476 LA (Loeb) – Contract Instructors' Office
	Office Hrs: Tuesday – 17:00-18:00 or by appointment
	Telephone: 613-797-0589
	Email: buhagiar@mac.com

"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

The subject of this course is social transformation and criminal justice reform. The scope of the course will deal with the theoretical and practical reasons for the use of criminal law as an instrument of social control. Students will engage in critical analysis of specific reform initiatives and processes. We will also consider alternate responses to social problems.

Often the subject matter of a myriad of disciplines such as criminology, law, public administration, social work, political science, and public administration, our examination of criminal justice reform will utilize a critical socio-legal perspective to interrogate criminal justice reforms in Canada and other jurisdictions. Some of the questions that this course will entertain are:

- What is criminal justice reform?
- What are the goals of criminal justice reform?
- What motivates criminal justice reform?
- How is criminal justice reform mediated through individuals, institutions, interest groups, and ideas?
- How is criminal justice reform implicated in social control?

Given that this course is a seminar, students will play a vital role in their own learning and the learning of their colleagues. Each student bears both a responsibility and an obligation to themselves and their colleagues.

The objectives of this course are:

- An appreciation of the historical and contemporary debates and challenges relating to criminal just reform;
- To familiarize students with the criminal justice reforms including the rationales and ideological bases that have been deployed in support of criminal justice reform; and
- To develop the capacity to conduct a critical analysis of criminal justice reform.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS

The required text for this course is:

Becker, Howard (2007) *Telling About Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. This text will be available at Octopus Books, located at the intersection of Bank St and 3rd Avenue in the Glebe.

Additional required reading materials will be uploaded to WebCT. These documents will already reside in the public domain and thus be available to students. Suggested readings may also be made available on WebCT or placed on Reserve at the university library.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Students are deemed to be both aware of the regulations detailed in the Carleton Undergraduate Calendar regarding academic offences. University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<http://www.carleton.ca/cu0708uc/regulations/acadregsuniv.html>

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FNS, Fail, or an ABS.

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Course Rules and Regulations

The following rules and regulations specifically apply to this course. If you have any questions please discuss with your professor/instructor as soon as possible. The onus is on each student to ensure they understand and comply with all of the relevant rules and regulations.

Expectations

- Students are deemed to have read and understood the relevant University rules and regulations that pertain to them.
- Students are expected to 'manage' their obligations to this course. Each and every student has a unique set of circumstances that can influence their performance in this course. Each student is responsible for all of the obligations, choices and decisions in their lives outside of the course that may influence their performance.
- Plagiarism is a serious matter and will be dealt with accordingly. **The Carleton University Academic Calendar states that: "Academic fraud is an act by a student, which may result in a false academic evaluation of that student or of another student"**. Please read the relevant sections concerning academic fraud in the Undergraduate Calendar. All material quoted or paraphrased from any source must be properly credited. The instructor also reserves the right to orally examine any student regarding work they submit in this course.
- To pass this course, you must complete all elements of the evaluation scheme. Failure to complete all elements of the evaluation scheme will result in an incomplete (which will convert into an F).
- This course will provide students with an intellectually challenging yet safe learning environment. Information will be presented in a manner that is accessible. Students will be assessed in a manner that is reasonable and fair.
- It is recognized that students pay a lot of money for the opportunity to learn, your grade will be based on your ability to demonstrate what you have learned through the assignments rather than your cancelled check or registrar's receipt.

- Students are expected to be fully engaged and active participants in their education. Put another way, it is expected that students will be active rather than passive learners. The role of the instructor is to 'facilitate' active learning, those expecting to learn via a passive method will find this course.
- The choice to attend class belongs to each student. The consequences of non-attendance are also borne by each student.
- Students are expected to engage in class discussions of the topics and themes that form the basis of this course.

Warning: A student's failure to adequately plan does not constitute an emergency or extenuating circumstance in the Instructor's world that will exonerate, alleviate or exempt you from any of the requirements or demands of this course.

Course Notes

- **Each student is responsible for their own course notes.** My lectures are not posted on any website, nor are they made available through the library reserve. If you are unable to attend a lecture you will need to obtain notes from one of your classmates.
- Students are encouraged to engage in note-taking from the assigned readings as well as at lectures.
- The Powerpoint slides I will show in class are only a skeleton to help guide lectures. Students are expected to put the 'flesh' onto this skeleton in the form of their notes in class and from the assigned readings.

E-mail / Internet / Computer Usage

- Please note that you will be able to link your CONNECT (MyCarleton) account to other non-CONNECT accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CONNECT address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://portal.carleton.ca/>
- I will be using the e-mail system on My Carleton to send out information. Please ensure that this address is set to forward to the e-mail address you use if the Carleton address is not your primary e-mail address.
- E-mails to the class will be sent out through the university's computing system. If you are using an e-mail address other than the one provided by the university, please ensure that your university e-mail account is active and set to forward messages to your other e-mail account(s). **If this is not done you will not be able to receive important e-mail messages sent to the class.**
- The Internet may be used **as a research tool to locate academic material**. Internet materials are not to be used in this course unless they comport with the academic standards for scholarly publications.
- **Computer problems are not an acceptable excuse for an extension.** Students are expected to ensure their work is saved and backed-up, either on a diskette, CD, memory stick, e-mailing it to yourself or as a printed copy.

Getting Help

- The instructor will make himself *reasonably* accessible for the duration of the course. You have my phone number. You have my e-mail (which goes to both my Mac account and my Blackberry). I have office hours before class or by appointment.
- Feel free to use any of these means to contact me, however, keep in mind that I also have many other things I need to get done. So don't wait until the very last moment to seek clarification or help.
- If you have questions or concerns relating to the material in the course feel free to come see during my office hours or to contact me to schedule an appointment. If you prefer e-mail that's fine with me.
- With respect to using e-mail to contact me, however, you should **allow 48 hours for a response**. If you have not received a response within this time, try sending another e-mail, come see me during my office hours or during class. You can also leaving a note in my departmental mailbox.

In-Class Behaviour

- People should not be talking in class or conducting themselves in a manner that is disturbing or disruptive to others. Students are expected to be respectful when discussing controversial topics.
- If your conduct is disturbing or disruptive, you will be asked to leave the class.
- Your cell phone, blackberry and/or pager should either be turned off or set to vibrate mode.
- Laptop computers are permitted in class for the specific purpose of note-taking. If you wish to use your computer to surf the Internet, Facebook, IM message, etc., please do so somewhere other than lectures.

Extensions and Deferrals

- Extensions are extremely rare occurrences and will only be granted in cases of exceptional circumstances.
- When requesting an extension students must tender all work completed on the assignment to that date (e.g. drafts, notes, etc.).
- Students must produce proper documentation for consideration (e.g. medical certificate; death certificate; etc.).
- The decision to grant an extension is solely the discretion of the Instructor. A physician's medical opinion does not entitle a student to an automatic extension.
- Deferrals are the purview of the Registrar's Office. Should you require an extension please contact the Registrar's Office directly.

METHODS OF EVALUATION AND DUE DATES

The dates for the assignment, paper and final are indicated below. If you are unable to write the examination or turn in any of the assignments on the dates as scheduled below, it is strongly suggested you consider taking the course another time.

You must complete all of the assignments in order to pass this course. Failure to complete all of the components for evaluation will result a failure of the course.

Take-Home Assignment (30%) Due October 28 2010 – The Take-Home Assignment will be handed out on **October 21, 2010** and is due in-class on **October 28, 2010**. The format of this exam will be short answers and an essay. It will encompass the first six lectures and their readings. You will have one week in which to complete this assignment. It must be handed in at the start of class on October 28, 2008. Late penalty is 10% per day.

Project Topic Identification and Literature Review (30%) | Due November 11, 2010 – In no more than 2 pages, students will identify their working title, a description and rationale of the project, the specific research question they will address in this project, a literature review of 5-7 pages, and a bibliographic list of 10 – 15 citations. This list should identify two key articles that will be used to write your paper. The bibliography must be in the format for the final paper.

Final Project Paper (40%) - Due December 9, 2010 – Students will write a paper in this course that applies the concepts and themes discussed to a specific topic that will be assigned. A series of resources will be placed on reserve to ensure that some materials are available to all. The number of sources required for an academic paper varies depending on the complexity, comprehensiveness, and innovation of the ideas and thoughts involved.

FINAL GRADES

Final grades are subject to the Dean's approval. Supplemental and Grade-raising exams are no longer available.

Grades

The following *Criteria for the Evaluation of Grades* and *Grade Profile* will be used in the evaluation of assignments.

GUIDELINES FOR THE EVALUATION OF WORK	
A+ A A-	Outstanding performance. Represents work of exceptional quality. Content, organization and style all at a high comprehension of subject and use of existing research and literature where appropriate. Also uses sound critical thinking, has innovative ideas on the subject, and shows personal engagement with the topic.
B+ B B-	Good performance. Represents work of good quality with no major weaknesses. Writing is clear and explicit and topic coverage and comprehension is more than adequate. Shows some degree of critical thinking and personal involvement in the work. Good use of existing knowledge on the subject.
C+ C C-	Satisfactory performance. Adequate work. Shows fair comprehension of the subject, but has some weaknesses in content, style and/or organization of the paper. Minimal critical awareness or personal involvement in the work. Adequate use of the literature.
D+ D D-	Marginal performance. Minimally adequate work, barely at a passing level. Serious flaws in content, organization and/or style. Poor comprehension of the subject, and minimal involvement in the paper. Poor use of research and existing literature.
F	Failing work.

GRADE PROFILE	
GRADE A: SUPERIOR	
Cognitive Abilities	Evidence of a high degree of conceptual integration and synthesis, original thought, and critical evaluation.
Content	Mastery of a wide-range of relevant literature.
Argument	Sophisticated and articulate development of ideas in a coherent essay structure.
Syntax and Usage	Flexibility in sentence structure and paragraph development in a manner appropriate to the theme.
GRADE B: GOOD	
Cognitive Abilities	Evidence of application, analysis, a basic integration of concepts, some synthesis.
Content	Mastery of substantial body of relevant literature.
Argument	Clear organization, good intra- and inter-paragraph structure, linear development.
Syntax and Usage	Basic competence in sentence structure, paragraph development, vocabulary, punctuation, spelling.
GRADE C: SATISFACTORY	
Cognitive Abilities	Evidence of knowledge, comprehension, and some application.
Content	Mastery of adequate body of relevant literature.
Argument	Adequate organization and coherent argument.
Syntax and Usage	As in "B" above but with greater tolerance for error.
GRADE D: PASS	
Cognitive Abilities	Evidence of knowledge and understanding of basic concepts, little application, analysis, or integration.
Content	Evidence of the bare minimum of relevant literature.
Argument	Basically comprehensible.
Syntax and Usage	Sentence structure, vocabulary, usage minimally acceptable.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS		
Date	Lecture	Assigned Readings
Lecture 1 Sept 16, 2010	Introduction and Administrivia	Course Outline
Lecture 2 Sept 23, 2010	The Objective of Criminal Justice Reform	Becker, Telling about society Becker, Representation of Society as Organizational Products
Lecture 3 Sept 30, 2010	The Question of Criminal Justice Reform	Becker, Who Does What? Becker, The Work Users Do
Lecture 4 Oct 7, 2010	Planning and Designing Criminal Justice Reforms	Becker, Standardization and Innovation Becker, Summarized Details
Lecture 5 Oct 14, 2010	CJ Reform as Change Management	Becker, Reality Aesthetics Becker, The Morality of Representation
Lecture 6 Oct 21, 2010	Reform & Empirical-Evidence Take-Home Assignment Handed out	Becker, Parables, Ideal Types, and Mathematical Models Becker, Charts: Thinking with Drawings
Lecture 7 Oct 28, 2010	The Criminological Imagination Take-Home Assignment Due	Becker, Visual Sociology, Documentary Photography, and Photojournalism Becker, Dramas and Multivocality: Shaw, Churchill and Shawn
Lecture 8 Nov 4, 2010	Discourse, Discursive Practices and CJ Reform	Becker, Goffman, Language and the Comparative Strategy Becker, Jane Austen: The Novel as Social Analysis
Lecture 9 Nov 11, 2010	The Limits of CJ Reform Project Topic Identification and Literature Review Due	Becker, George Perec's Experiments in Social Descriptions Becker, Italo Calvino, Urbanologist
Lecture 10 Nov 18, 2010	Criminal Justice Reform and Its Discontents	To Be Determined
Lecture 11 Nov 25, 2010	Evaluating Criminal Justice Reforms	Tool Kit
Lecture 12 Dec 2, 2010	Tools, Tips & Tricks	Tool Kit

* This schedule is subject to revision depending on our progress.