

Course Outline

COURSE:	Sentencing 4308
TERM:	Summer 2009
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS
CLASS:	Day & Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 6:00-9:00 Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
INSTRUCTOR:	Vajmeh Tabibi
CONTACT:	Office: C476 Office Hrs: Thursday from 4:00-6:00 Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 3693 Email: vtabibi@uottawa.ca

"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 sure 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 the Paul Menton Centre as soon as possible." 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

This course examines sentencing practice and policy nationally (Canada) and internationally (in the context of war crimes). Reform legislation was introduced in 1996, and the effects of those reforms are only now beginning to be known. The sentencing reforms follow changes to the parole system introduced in 1992. In this course we shall explore the theories and principles of sentencing and the various reforms that have been proposed and implemented, including the reports of the Canadian Sentencing Commission, the Daubney Committee and the reforms passed in 1996 (Bill C-41). The course begins with an introduction to sentencing principles and philosophies. We also examine the impact of sentencing on the minority groups and the mentally ill. Later in the course we examine the problems in sentencing to which the reforms of 1996 were proposed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students should have a solid understanding of how the sentencing process actually works in Canadian criminal Justice. Students should understand and be able to critically analyze the basis upon which sentences are imposed, and feel confident to argue in favour of or against a given sentence.

TEACHING METHOD

Primarily a seminar style with class discussions, and guest lectures.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The required text is: *Making Sense of Sentencing* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999), available at

EVALUATION

(All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade)

Your work will be evaluated based on the following four components:

1) Class Participation 20%

Students are expected to prepare for each class by reading the required material in advance. Students are encouraged to actively partake in discussions and presentation, and to take risks to share their views, perspectives, experiences, playing an active role in the learning process.

2) Class Presentation 20%

Students are asked to give a formal, in-depth oral presentation that addresses the main issues and controversies contained in their research paper. Class presentations will take place in the final weeks of the course. Each presentation should last no more than 30 minutes.

3) Research paper Take-home exam 40%

A major research paper (15 pages in length) addressing an issue related to sentencing (nationally or internationally). Topics may be chosen by students and approved by the instructor.

4) Weekly Assignments 20%

There will be weekly reading assignments (worth 5 points each) - you must complete a minimum of 4 of these. The assignment must be handed in the beginning of class.

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, July 7	Introduction to sentencing and parole Readings: Chapter 1 & 2
Thursday, July 9	Sentencing in Canada Readings: Chapter 7 & 8
Tuesday, July 14	Conditional Sentencing Readings: Chapters 5 & 6 Film: Conditional Sentence Practices Guest Speaker: Justice Gills Renaud
Thursday, July 16	Guest Speaker: Justice Gills Renaud

Tuesday, July 21	Minorities and Sentencing Visible Minorities: Aboriginals and Blacks Readings: Chapters 10 & 12
Thursday, July 23	Sentencing and Women, Sentencing and the Mentally III Readings: Chapters 9 & 10
Tuesday, July 28	Sentencing Reform, Reading: chapters 20 & 21 Role of the Victim in Sentencing Reading: Chapter 13
Thursday, July 30	Sentencing 'War Crimes' Perpetrators: International Perspectives International sentencing laws: On-line article Sentencing Child Soldiers and Perpetrators of Genocide and Rape: On-line articles Debate
Tuesday, August 4	Presentations
Thursday, August 6	Presentations
Tuesday, August 11	Presentations
Thursday, August 13	Presentations
Tuesday, August 25	Final Paper due in my office: 12:00-2:00