

## Course Outline

**COURSE:** LAWS 4904C SPECIAL TOPIC:  
CORRECTIONAL LAW: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CANADIAN PRISONS

**TERM:** Winter 2012

**PREREQUISITE:** Fourth year standing

**CLASS:** DAY & TIME: Monday 11.35am-2.25pm  
ROOM: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location

**INSTRUCTOR:** Maeve W. McMahon B.Soc.Sc. MA (Criminology) PhD (Sociology)

**CONTACT;** Office: Loeb D586 (assignments and mail should be addressed to C473 Loeb)

OFFICE HRS: Wednesdays 3.15-4.30pm  
(and usually available immediately *after* class)

Telephone: 613-520-2600 ext 8095

E-mail: You can reach me through the WebCT site for this course and also at  
Maeve\_McMahon@carleton.ca

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will examine the history, structure, and place of correctional law within the Canadian criminal justice system. We will examine primary correctional statutes and legislation. The legal underpinning of major correctional programmes will be established. We will discuss the competing objectives of punishment, incapacitation and rehabilitation in the context of respect for the rule of law and human rights. The protection of the human rights of prisoners will be a primary theme, and we shall consider the role of judicial inquiries (notably the work of Louise Arbour as Commissioner ‘*Concerning Certain Events at the Prison for Women in Kingston*’) in protecting these rights. We shall also address the human rights situations concerning correctional staff, and especially with respect to women working in prisons for men. While our primary focus is on Canada, we shall also be considering matters concerning imprisonment and human rights in international and comparative contexts.

This is a seminar course that expects students to participate in informed discussion of the weekly topics. Students should do required readings prior to class.

**REQUIRED PURCHASE**

**Justice Behind the Walls: Human Rights in Canadian Prisons** by Michael Jackson. Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre. 2002. Michael Jackson is a Law Professor at the University of British Columbia. The book is available at the Carleton University Bookstore.

Note: There is a website associated with this book: [www.justicebehindthewalls.net](http://www.justicebehindthewalls.net) This website contains, and has links to, many sources that may be useful in preparing your research paper.

**ADDITIONAL READINGS THAT THERE WILL BE PRESENTATIONS ON** (more details will be provided in the course schedule)

Students are obliged to consult the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* as relevant. The Act can be accessed through the website of the Department of Justice at [www.laws.justice.gc.ca](http://www.laws.justice.gc.ca)

Debra Parkes and Kim Pate "Time for Accountability: Effective Oversight of Women's Prisons," **Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice**, (2006) 48:2:251-285. Available through e-journals at the MacOdrum library (henceforth 'the library').

Curt T. Griffiths and Simon Verdun-Jones "The Structure and Operation of Canadian Corrections," pp. 459-494 in their book **Canadian Criminal Justice**, second edition. Toronto: Harcourt Brace and Company. 1994. On reserve at the library.

Maeve W. McMahon "Control as Enterprise: Some Recent Developments in Privatization and Criminal Justice," in Steve Easton (Editor) **Privatizing Correctional Institutions**. Vancouver: The Fraser Institute. 1998. On reserve at the library.

'A Roadmap to Strengthening Public Safety.' Report of the Correctional Service of Canada Review Panel, 2007 [aka the Sampson Report]. This report is available online through the library. The library also has a hard copy in government documents on the second floor, at call # CA1 PSP805 2007.R57 (note: for in library use only).

'A Flawed Compass: A Human Rights Analysis of the Roadmap to Strengthening Public Safety.' by Michael Jackson and Graham Stewart. 2009. This report is available online via [www.justicebehindthewalls.net](http://www.justicebehindthewalls.net)

Madame Justice Louise Arbour **Commission of Inquiry Into Certain Events at the Prison for Women**. Toronto: The Commission. 1996. The Commission's report is available online electronically through the library. There is also a hard copy available on the second floor, government documents #CA1 SG860 96.C53 ENG

Maeve W. McMahon **Women on Guard: Discrimination and Harassment in Corrections**. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 1999. Available on reserve at the library.

Dawn Moore, Kellie Leclerc Burton and Kelly Hannah-Moffat, "'Get Tough' Efficiency, Human Rights, Correctional Restructuring and Prison Privatization in Ontario, Canada," pp. 152-161 in **Capitalist Punishment: Prison Privatization and Human Rights** edited by Andrew Coyle, Allison Campbell and Rodney Neufeld (hereinafter referred to as 'Coyle et al'), Atlanta, GA: Clarity Press, 2003. Available on reserve at the library.

Phillip J. Wood "The Rise of the Prison Industrial Complex in the United States," pp.16-29 in Coyle et al. (see above)

Katherine van Wormier "Prison Privatization and Women," pp. 102-113 in Coyle et al. (see above)

Ivan Zinger "Human Rights Compliance and the Role of External Prison Oversight" (pp 127-140) and Michael Jackson "The Litmus Test of Legitimacy: Independent Adjudication and Administrative Segregation" by (pp 157-196) in the **Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice** (April 2006) 48:2. Available through e-journals at the library.

Andrew John Goldsmith "Policing's New Visibility," **British Journal of Criminology**, (2010) 50:5:914-934. Available through e-journals at the library.

## **FURTHER READING**

Additional readings that may be helpful in getting started on your research paper are available on reserve at the library.

Students also should consult the websites of organizations and institutions dealing with prison-related matters. These include CAEFS – Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies; the John Howard Society; the Correctional Service of Canada; the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services; the Church Council on Justice. Concerning issues in the USA students can consult the website for The Sentencing Project (Marc Mauer). Additional suggestions will be provided in class both by the instructor and the students.

Further readings may be assigned in class. Students are also expected to consult additional academic sources in the course of preparing their research proposals and final assignments. The instructor can provide students with assistance in identifying sources relevant to their topic.

## **EVALUATION PROCEDURE**

6% ATTENDANCE

20% IN-CLASS PRESENTATION: Student presentations - 15 minutes - will be based on individual chapters of Professor Jackson's book, and on articles in the **Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice**, as well as additional sources. The presenting student will then lead a 10 minute class discussion of the topic. The presenter should provide a 1-2 page handout to the Instructor and to classmates.

The presentations will commence with the student providing a brief introduction to themselves and their research interests concerning law, prisons and human rights. The presentation should provide an informative and analytical discussion of the reading/s. The main point/s of the reading/s should be identified. The major strengths and insights of the reading should also be identified. The presenter can also identify any limitations of the reading/s.

The presenter should identify potential research topics arising from the reading/s.

The presenter should identify questions for group discussion (and these should be provided to students on the handout).

The presenter should have a written or typed set of notes to guide their presentation. However simply reading word by word from the notes is *strongly* discouraged, and may adversely affect the grade given by the Instructor to the presentation.

24% RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL (3-4 pages with a 2 page annotated bibliography). Due on February 13, at the beginning of class.

50% FINAL PAPER (15 pages of text, plus a bibliography and an appendix if relevant. In addition to the title page, the paper should include a 'Table of Contents').  
The final assignment will be due on Monday April 2, and should be submitted at the final class.  
**If you wish to have your paper returned to you please provide an S.A.E. (stamped addressed envelope) with adequate postage.**

Late assignments will be marked down by one half grade for each day that they are late. A medical certificate or other appropriate documentation will be required to support any request for an extension. Students must complete and hand in all assignments in order to meet the course requirements and to be eligible to pass the course.

It is your responsibility to be present in class and to submit assignments on time.

A hard copy of assignments must be submitted. Assignments are not to be submitted by e-mail.

Always keep a copy of your assignments.

A detailed schedule of individual class topics, and readings, will be available for students.

Out of class the Instructor will communicate with students primarily through WebCT. Please monitor WebCT for e-mail communications and postings of course-related information.