

Criminal Justice and Social Policy

LAWS 4701 A - Instructor: Chris McNaught (Also listed as SOWK 4701 A and SOCI 4701 A)

Title: The War on Terror - Real or Metaphorical Pursuit of Global Justice and Security?

“The lesson for the twenty-first century is that the fight for security, prosperity and justice can no longer be won on any one nation’s ground. It is international.” (Will Hutton)

An examination of whether American isolationism, paradoxically reflected in costly adventurism, our own insipid and inconsistent Canadian foreign policy, the disastrous global markets, and the festering politics of faith/ideology have rendered the west morally and practically incapable of championing sound and effective responses to key global issues. The search for leadership and an international focus of integrity.

Tuesday and Thursday, 18:05 - 10:55 p.m. (May-June)

Prerequisite: Fourth-year Honours standing or permission of Department

SOCI 4702 A - Instructor: Michael Mopas (Also listed as LAWS 4702 A and SOWK 4702 A)

Title: Science, Technology and Criminal Justice

This course critically examines the interconnections between science and technology, on the one hand, and crime, criminality, and criminal justice, on the other. It takes as an initial starting point the need to question and interrogate how certain claims to science are equated with notions of “truth” and “objectivity”. This is done by looking closely at the place of scientific facts and technological artifacts within the criminal justice system. First, we will look at particular forms of techno-science that have been central to criminal justice. Topics to be discussed include fingerprinting, DNA-typing, computers, and surveillance technology. Second, we will examine the influence of science and technology on the courts, policing, and corrections. Throughout the course, the broader social, political, legal, and ethical implications of various relations between science, technology, and criminal justice will be considered.

Mondays and Wednesday 14:35 - 17:25 p.m. (May-June)

Prerequisite: Fourth-year Honours standing or permission of Department

SOWK 4703 A - Instructor: Andrew Webster (Also listed as LAWS 4703 A and SOCI 4703 A)

Title: Social Justice and the Law

Examines social justice and social policy in the context of the constitution, statute, and international convention. The legal basis of the welfare state is explored with special reference to legal and moral obligation of levels of government to provide social protections. The course contrasts redistributive justice (social justice) with retributive justice (criminal justice), showing the at-time difficult relationship between the two. It examines historical and contemporary intergovernmental tensions over fiscal and administrative responsibility in main stream and Aboriginal social welfare. The discussion includes the statutory development of social protections and the growing role of the courts in defining policy. The role of community - legally recognized or otherwise - remains important in this evolution. The fiduciary and protective role of the state (e.g., in child welfare, health, and the Aboriginal context) is also addressed.

The course reflects upon social protections in light of changing needs of communities for protection against adverse effects of market liberalization. The prevailing neo-Liberal economics associated with ‘globalization’ is examined in relation to changing expectations of state, province, municipality, family, individual, charity, and private enterprise. This includes analysis of social protections in light of conflict between Charter and international social and economic legal commitments, SOWK 4703 is intended for social work, sociology and law students, but it will benefit anyone needing to understand the uneasy relationship between law and social justice.

Monday and Wednesday, 17:35 - 20:25 p.m. (May-June)

Prerequisite: Fourth-Year Honours standing or Permission of Department

GLOBALIZATION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE