

Course Outline

COURSE:	CRCJ 3202B Digital Criminology
TERM:	Fall 2023
PREREQUISITES:	CRCJ 1000, third year standing, and enrollment in a B.A. or Minor in Criminology and Criminal Justice, or by permission of the Institute.
CLASS:	Online via Zoom and Brightspace
Day & Time:	Thursday 2:35 to 5:25pm
Room:	Synchronous/Asynchronous
INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT)	Meg D. Lonergan
CONTACT:	Office: Criminology Contract Instructor Office, 17 th Floor Dunton Tower
	Office Hours: Mondays 1-2:30pm or by appointment
	Email: megan.lonergan@carleton.ca

TA CONTACT: EMMA FEIT emmafeit@cmail.carleton.ca

You must use your Carleton email address in all correspondence with the instructor and/or with the T.A.

Link to Brightspace page: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/208283>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & AFFIRMATION**ANISHNABE**

Ni manàdjiyànàniḡ Màmìwininì Anishinàbeg, ogog kà nàgadawàbandadjig iyo akì eko weshkad. Ako nongom ega wikàd kì mìgiwewàdj. Ni manàdjiyànàniḡ kakina Anishinàbeg ondaje kaye ogog kakina eniyagizidjig enigokamigàḡ Kanadàng eji ondàpinangig endàwàdjìn Odàwàng. Ninisidawinawànàniḡ kenawendamòdjig kije kikenindamàwin; weshkinìgidjig kaye kejeyàdizidjig. Nigijeweninmànàniḡ ogog kà nìgàni sòngideyedjig; weshkad, nongom; kaye àyànikàdj.

ENGLISH

We pay respect to the Algonquin people, who are the traditional guardians of this land. We acknowledge their longstanding relationship with this territory, which remains unceded. We pay respect to all Indigenous people in this region, from all nations across Canada, who call Ottawa home. We acknowledge the traditional knowledge keepers, both young and old. And we honour their courageous leaders: past, present, future.

Format: Mixed-Modality

This course is an online course where there is a mixture of synchronous meetings and asynchronous activities. This means students need to be prepared to meet some of the time online via web conferencing tools at scheduled days and times. The asynchronous activities are intended to provide flexibility to students when the class is not meeting synchronously. Students are expected to remain up to date with the deadlines and due dates provided by the instructor. These courses require reliable high-speed Internet access and a computer (ideally with a webcam), and a headset with a microphone.

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the field of digital criminology. Students will learn what digital criminology as a subfield is; how technology has and continues to impact crime, governance, and policing; and the benefits, harms, and potential risks of technology in criminal justice.

Computer programming or knowledge of computer science and related technologies is not required for this course. Students will gain a deeper understanding of digital literacy and basic knowledge about key technologies in the course (such as algorithms, coding, IoT, layers of the internet, etc.).

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing Digital Criminology students will have an improved understanding of the increasing digitization of crime, evidentiary procedure, law and policy, policing, and new/emerging types of harm. As a blend of asynchronous and synchronous content, student will utilize and strengthen their independent learning skills and have opportunities for group engagement. Students will have a deeper understanding of key issues related to criminology, crime, victimization, and technologies in the digital era.

Texts

Required texts are available on Brightspace. Additional resources should be found using the Carleton online database and library.

Evaluation

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Weekly Quizzes: 15%

Weekly quizzes based on readings and lecture content.

- Quizzes open Friday at noon for the following week's content.
- Quizzes close at midnight on Wednesday.
- Only one quiz attempt is allowed and missed quizzes cannot be made up.

Synchronous Discussion Contributions: 20%

- Students are required to attend the first class via Zoom. Please email the instructor if you register after the first class.
- Students are expected to regularly attend and participate in discussions on Thursday afternoons during the course time slot via Zoom, as a guideline:
 - actively participate in a minimum of three discussions before reading week
 - actively participate in a minimum of three discussions after reading week
 - *discussion is based on quality of engagement rather than quantity of attendance.*
- **Grade will be determined by active engagement with instructor, TA., other students, and guest speakers. Information about guest speakers will be available on Brightspace and is currently being finalized.**

Midterm Assignment: 25%

- Due November 2nd
- Students will creatively engage with an issue related to Digital Criminology
- Details and rubric are available on Brightspace.

Final Assignment: 40%

- Due December 8th
- Students will complete a policy proposal related to a topic in Digital Criminology
- 10 to 12 pages, 1-inch margins, double-spaced, size 12 font + a title page + works cited page(s)
- APA, ASA, or McGill citation style
- Details and rubric are available on Brightspace

Important Dates from Course Calendar

- September 6th classes begin.
- October 1st last day to withdraw.
- October 9th statutory holiday
- Fall break October 23rd to 27th.
- December 8th last day of fall classes (follows a Monday schedule).
- Examinations run from December 10th to 22nd.

Course Calendar

Week 1: Thursday, September 7th

Introduction to Digital Criminology

- Ellis, Justin R. (2022). A fairy tale gone wrong: social media, recursive hate and the politicisation of drag queen storytime. *The Journal of Criminal Law*, 86(2), 94-108.
- Wall, David S. (2008). Cybercrime and the culture of fear: Social science fiction(s) and the production of knowledge about cybercrime. *Information, Communication & Society*, 11(6), 861-884.

Guest: T.A. Emma

Week 2: Thursday, September 14th

Algorithms and Coding

- Butcher, Taina. (2012). Want to be on top? Algorithmic power and the threat of invisibility on Facebook. *New Media & Society*, 14(7), 1164-1180.
- Chun, Wendy Hui Kyong. (2008). On 'sorcery,' or code as fetish. *Configurations*, 16(3), 299-324.

Week 3: Thursday, September 21st

Big Data and IoT

- Milivojević, Sanja., and Radulski, Elizabeth. (2020). The 'future internet' and crime: Towards a criminology of the Internet of Things. *Crimen*, 11(3), 255-271.
- Smith, Gavin, J. D., Moses, Lyria B., and Chan, Janet. (2017). The challenges of doing criminology in the big data era: Towards a digital and data-driven approach. *British Journal of Criminology*, 57, 259-274.

Week 4: Thursday, September 28th

Robotics

- Benjamin, Ruha. (2019). "Engineered inequality: Are robots racist?" in *Race after technology*. Cambridge, U.K.: Polity Press. pp. 49-76.
- Magnet, Shoshana. (2021). Military buzz: Race, robots and insects. *The Communication Review*, 24(3), 218-243.

Week 5: Thursday, October 5th

Policing

- Linnemann, Travis. (2022). "RoboCop, or Modern Prometheus," in *The Horror of Police*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, pp.109-154.
- Sandhu, A., and Fussey, P. (2021). The 'uberization of policing'? How police negotiate and operationalise predictive policing technology. *Policing & Society*, 31(1), 66-81.

Week 6: Thursday, October 12th

Emojis, Memes, and Social Media

- Dansei, Marcel. (2021). The Law and Emojis" Emoji Forensics. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law*, 34(4), 1117-1140.
- Wood, M. A. (2020). Policing's 'meme' strategy': Understanding the rise of police social media engagement work. *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, 32(1), 40-58.

Guest: Emmy-nominated co-host of CBC's Street Cents Ian (Creo) Walters

Week 7: Thursday, October 19th

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Hayward, K. J., and Maas, M. M. (2021). Artificial intelligence and crime: A primer for criminologists. *Crime Media Culture*, 17(2), 209-233.
- Podoletz, Lena. (2023). We need to talk about emotional AI and crime. *AI & Society*, 38 (3), 1067-1082.

Reading week: October 23rd to 27th

Week 9: Thursday, November 2nd

Digital Evidence

- Karagiannis, C. (2023). Digital evidence 'hidden in the cloud': Is 'possession' still a relevant notion? *ERA Forum*, 23, 301-211.
- Dodge, A., Dale, S., Ricciardelli, R., and Balluci, D. (2019). 'This isn't your father's police force': Digital evidence in sexual assault investigations. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 52(4), 499-515.

Week 10: Thursday, November 9th

Crypto and the Dark Web

- Davis, Shelby, and Arriago, Bruce. (2021). The dark web and anonymizing technologies: Legal pitfalls, ethical prospects, and policy directions from radical criminology. *Crime, Law, and Social Change*, 76, 367-386.
- Laferrière, Dominique, and Décary-Hétu, David. (2023). Examining the uncharted dark web: Trust signalling on single vendor shops. *Deviant Behavior*, 44(1), 37-56.

Week 11: Thursday, November 16th

Cyber Vigilantism

- Chia, Stella C. (2020). Seeking justice on the web: How news media and social norms drive the practice of cyber vigilantism. *Social Science Computer Review*, 38(6), 655-672.
- Trottier, Daniel. (2017). Digital vigilantism as weaponization of visibility. *Philosophy of Technology*, 30, 55-72.

Optional

Lageson, Sarah. (2020). "The digilantes," in *Digital punishment: Privacy, stigma, and the harms of data-driven criminal justice*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 91-112.

Week 12: Thursday, November 23rd

Online Harms

- Geist, Michael. (April 25, 2022). Episode 126: Why Canada's online harms consultation was a transparency and policy failure, The Law Bytes Podcast. Available on Spotify, Apple Podcast, or GooglePlay, or <https://lawbytes.castos.com/player/1103950>
- Lageson, Sarah Esther. (2020). "Mugged," in *Digital Punishment: Privacy, Stigma, and the Harms of Data-Driven Criminal Justice*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 137-162.
- Wood, Mark A. (2021). Rethinking how technologies harm. *British Journal of Criminology*, 61, 627-647.

Week 13: Thursday, November 30th

Online Fantasies

- Nair, Abhilash. (2010). Real porn and pseudo porn: The regulatory road. *International Review of Law, Computers & Technology*, 24(3), 223-232.
- Wood, Charles S. (2017). Cannibal cop out: Why lenity is a necessary, yet unworkable solution in interpreting the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. *Brooklyn Law Review*, 82(4), 1849-1894.

Guest: Award-winning Canadian pornographic filmmaker Kate Sinclair

Week 14: Thursday, December 7th

Last Class (doesn't count for discussion but will help you succeed on your final)

- Workshop for final assignments
- Course evaluations

Guest: T.A. Emma

Instructor's Policies

Email Policy

I endeavor to reply to emails within 72 hours (not including weekends). If you do not receive reply after 72 hours, please send me a follow-up email to ensure that I received the original email and receive a quick response.

Please email questions about assignments to your T.A. first, as they will be grading assignments.

Extensions & Late Penalty Policy

Please ask me for an extension for any of the course assignments as far in advance as possible. For example, if a large portion of the class has another assignment due the same day in another course, I would be happy to just change the due date for everyone. I do not need to know why you need an extension (although you're welcome to tell me). Extensions are meant to acknowledge that life happens and that you need more time to submit the best version of your work. Asking for an extension demonstrates organization and responsibility.

Plagiarism

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the courses.

Intellectual Property

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

Statement on Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a link to information about all of the resources, both on campus and off, that you may find helpful: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

The “You Actually Read the Syllabus” Bonus

Thank you for taking the time to read over the policies and procedures in the course outline/syllabus. If you send me an email with the course code in the subject line and attach a picture of a unicorn you will receive a 2% bonus added to your final grade.

Do not tell your peers about this (like with fight club, we don't talk about unicorn club). You will notice during the course that a unicorn counter will appear on Brightspace (again, we don't talk about unicorn club) and you'll be able to see how True Crime Media's stable compares to that of Digital Criminology. If you happen to be in both of my courses this term, you can send in two different unicorns (or a photo that contains two unicorns) but please ensure you put both course codes.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes can be found at the below link:

<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

<https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991 <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>