CRCJ 4908
Honours Thesis
Criminology and Criminal Justice
General Information

- CRCJ 4908 (1.0 credit)
- It is NOT compulsory
- Students not doing CRCJ 4908 must complete 1.0 credit of approved CCJ Electives at the 4000-level
- CRCJ 4908 requires
  - 4th year standing (14 credits complete)
  - A Major CGPA of 10.0 (A–)
What is the Honours Thesis?

- A full-credit (1.0) course (Sept – April)
- Original research under the guidance of a faculty member, usually in the area of your concentration
- Not simply a literature review or research report (though these are certainly a components)
- Involves theory and methodology
- Must make an independent contribution to the literature
What is the Honours Thesis?

- The theory, data, results and implications of the research project are summarized in a single thesis paper due at the end of the Winter term.
- The length of the thesis varies, usually 30–60 pages long.
- Examples are available for review in the main office.
- CRCJ 4908 students participate in a reception in March where they display posters summarizing the details of their research.
Why the Honours Thesis?

- Sometimes required for admission to a Masters program
- Not required for Law School, but it may be good experience/practice for graduate studies and/or careers involving data analysis
- End result is a good writing sample and potentially a good academic reference
- Good trial run before committing to MA
GPA Requirements

- According to the Undergraduate Calendar, students need a minimum 10.0 (A–) Major CGPA in order to be eligible to do the Honours Thesis.

  - Major CGPA is the 2\textsuperscript{nd} CGPA reported on your audit.
  - Students with a slightly lower CGPA may be given permission from the Director in some cases.
Course Pre-requisites

- Must have completed the research methods course for the concentration.
  - Laws 2908 & LAWS 3908
  - PSYC 2001 & 2002, and PSYC 3000
  - SOCI 2000 & 2001

- Students doing a Thesis with a faculty member in a department *outside* their concentration should have completed the associated research methods (e.g. CRCJ 3001 or CRCJ 3002)
Step #1

- Find a Faculty Supervisor

- If you have the appropriate CGPA, and course pre-requisites, the next step is to find someone to supervise your research.

- For Law & Soc-related projects, begin looking for a supervisor during the winter term. For Psych-related projects, start in December or January.

- This person should have expertise with the topic you are interested in.
A good place to start is one of our webpages that lists Departmental Faculty as well as Cross-appointed faculty from other departments: [www.carleton.ca/criminology/faculty-and-staff/](http://www.carleton.ca/criminology/faculty-and-staff/)

- Contact 2 or 3 potential supervisors by email and set up a meeting to discuss the matter.
- Ensure that they are available and aren’t away on sabbatical (research leave) or are already busy with other theses supervisions (UG or Grad).
- Ensure that they are willing to supervise you on the topic you want
- Ask them to confirm by email so you have it in writing.
Psychology–related Theses

- Students hoping to do a Psychology–related theses MUST be in a Psychology Concentration and MUST have completed PSYC 3000.

- In general, Psychology professors give preference to Psychology Majors before other Majors (including Criminology).

- Note that students generally cannot do a graduate Psychology degree without first doing a UG Psychology degree.
Step #2

- Forward the email from your supervisor to Robin so she can enter “Departmental Permission” into the system to allow you to register for CRCJ 4908 and include your Criminology-related topic.

- Classes/Meetings will usually take place in the Ken Hatt Boardroom (Room C563) on a regular (but not weekly) basis with the Director of ICCJ.
More Info:

- Review past course outlines for CRCJ 4908 for more details about the requirements of the course:
  
  https://carleton.ca/criminology/current-students/course-outlines/

- Graduate Studies Info:
  
  https://carleton.ca/criminology/current-students/graduate-studies-information/