

**CRCJ 4001B Cultural Criminology
Winter 2026**

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Winter 2026
Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Carleton University**

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Office hours: please email for an appointment

Brightspace course page:

<https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/364976>

In-Person Seminar: Tuesday 11:35am to 2:25pm

Please see course calendar or Brightspace for classroom location.

Prerequisites: CRCJ 1000, CRCJ 2100, and 4th year standing.

Course Description: This course is a special topics seminar on the field of cultural criminology. Cultural criminology is a subfield of criminology that understands both "crime" and "culture" to be processes of collective meaning, wrapped up in symbolism, identity, and socio-political relations. Born out of the subcultural and symbolic interactionist research of Birmingham and Chicago schools in the 1960s, "Cultural criminology actively seeks to dissolve conventional understandings and accepted boundaries, whether they confine specific criminological theories or the institutionalized discipline of criminology itself." This course will explore how crime is cultural and culture can be criminal.

Course Materials, Texts, and Fees:

All required course materials will be hyperlinked or posted to the course Brightspace page.

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

Acknowledgement & Affirmation:

Ni manàdjiyànànig Màmìwininì Anishinàbeg, ogog kà nàgadawàbandadjig iyo akì eko weshkad. Ako nongom egawìkàd kì mìgiwewàdj. Ni manàdjiyànànig kakina Anishinàbeg ondaže kaye ogog kakina eniyagizidjig enigokamigàg Kanadàng eji ondapinangig

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endàwàdjìn Odàwàng. Ninisidawinawànàinig kenawendamòdjig kije kikenindamàwin; weshkinìgidjig kaye kejeyàdizidjig. Nigijeweninmànàinig ogog kà nìgàni sòngideyedjig; weshkad, nongom; kaye àyànikàdj.

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, and future.

Content Warning

Students should review the syllabus in advance of deciding to participate in this course; students who feel they cannot participate in academic discourse related to any of the topics or assigned readings are encouraged to enrol in a different seminar course.

Learning Outcomes

Successful completion of this seminar course contributes to the following learning outcomes:

- o Creatively engage in abstract thinking and expression through the midterm assignment
- o Analyze and problem solve through critical thinking
- o Demonstrate clear and effective written communication skills
- o Construct a thesis, conduct research, and craft arguments supported by evidence in support of said these, as well as defending against potential critics of one's argument
- o Demonstrating engagement and understanding of course materials, themes, and concepts by applying them in course assignments
- o Define cultural criminology and explain its methods, theories and politics; provide an overview of related

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criminological subfields; explain the significance of
cultural criminology to the broader discipline

Assessments

Please note that the following is an overview of the assessments that will be used to evaluate your learning and determine your grade in the course; detailed instructions and marking rubrics are available on Brightspace.

Component	Due date	Weight	Comments
<i>Active Seminar Participation</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Participation is <u>not</u> the same as attendance
<i>Reading Reflections</i>	<i>Students will submit 3 reading reflections throughout the course, each worth 5%</i>	(3x5%) 15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Opportunity to receive feedback on citing and writingo Demonstrate engagement and understandingo Further opportunity to check your understanding and ask questions
<i>Syllabus Quiz</i>	<i>Must be successfully completed by midnight on January 26th</i>	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Helps ensure students are familiar with the course outline and expectations
<i>Midterm</i>	<i>Friday, Feb. 6 by 6pm</i>	20%	Based on materials covered in weeks 1-5 Two parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Make something2. Explain how the "thing" represents or otherwise communicates an idea

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			related to criminology
<i>Final Paper</i>	Due by noon on April 23rd	40%	Students will write academic research papers on a topic related to cultural criminology

Course Schedule

Week 1: January 6th

Introduction to Cultural Criminology

Ebert, Theresa L. (2016). The poverty of (post)humanities. *Knowledge Cultures*, 4(6), 25-54.

Ferrell, Jeff. (1999). Cultural criminology. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 25, 395-418.

Spencer, Dale. (2011). Cultural criminology: An invitation...to what? *Critical Criminology*, 19, 197-212.

Week 2: January 13th

The Politics and Theories of Cultural Criminology

Ferrell, Jeff. (2013). Cultural criminology and the politics of meaning. *Critical Criminology*, 21, 257-271.

Ian, J. (2019). Cultural Criminology: The Time is Now. *Critical Criminology*, 27(1), 5-20.

Martin G. (2023). "Cultural criminology activism at the intersection of crime-media research," in The Emerald international handbook of activist criminology. Emerald Publishing Limited, pp. 79-92.

Week 3: January 20th

Methods of Cultural Criminology

Ferrell, Jeff., Hayward, Keith., and Young, Jock. (2015). "Dangerous knowledges: Some methods of cultural criminology," in Cultural Criminology: An Invitation. London: Sage, pp. 209-239.

Kane, Stephanie C. (2004). The unconventional methods of cultural criminology. *Theoretical Criminology*, 8(3), 303-321.

Valverde, Mariana. (2006). Law and order: Images, meaning, and myths. Rutgers University Press, pp. 18-57.

**Syllabus quiz must be successfully completed
by midnight January 26th**

Week 4: January 27th

Aesthetics, The Senses, and Visual Criminology

McClanahan, Bill. (2020). 'All knowledge begins with the senses': Towards a sensory criminology. *The British Journal of Criminology*, 60(1), 3-23.

Millie, Andrew. (2019). Crimes of the senses: Yarn bombing and aesthetic criminology. *The British Journal of Criminology*, 59(6), 1269-1287.

Young, Alison., and Popovski, Hristijan. (2024). Signifying Dissent: The Sensory Semiotics of Protest. *Crime, Media, Culture*, 20(1), 59-82.

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Week 5: February 3rd

Subcultures and Cultural Criminology

Karas, Tony. (2025). Cultural criminology, counter-extremism and the contemporary far right. *Crime Media Culture*, 21(3), 267-293.

Linnemann, Travis. (2017). Proof of death: Police power and the visual economies of seizure, accumulation and trophy. *Theoretical Criminology*, 21(1), 57-77.

Naegler, Laura., Mythen, Gabe., & Astley, Jacob. (2025). The seductions and fallacies of misogynistic influencer culture: Looking through the lens of social bulimia. *Crime, Media, Culture*, 1-21.

Midterm due: February 6th by 6pm

Week 6: February 10th

Film, Television, and Criminology

Kennedy, Liam. (2021). 'Whenever there's trouble, just yelp for help': Crime, conservation, and corporatization in *Paw Patrol*. *Crime Media Culture*, 17(2), 255-270.

Kohm, Steven A., and Greenhill, Pauline. (2011). Pedophile crime films as popular criminology: A problem of justice? *Theoretical Criminology*, 15(2), 195-215.

Rafter, Nicole., and Brown, Michelle. (2011). "Taking criminology to the movies," in Criminology Goes to the Movies: Crime Theory and Popular Culture. New York: New York University Press, pp. 1-13.

Winter reading week: February 16th to 20th

Week 7: February 24th

Popular Criminology

- Atkinson, Colin., and Brangan, Louise. (2024). 'There is more than one sort of prison, Captain': A popular criminology of prisons and penal regimes in *Star Wars*. *Crime Media Culture*, 20(4), 370-387.
- Fawcett, Christina., and Kohm, Steven. (2020). Carceral violence at the intersection of madness and crime in *Batman: Arkham Asylum* and *Batman: Arkham City*. *Crime Media Culture*, 16(2), 265-285.
- Khan, Ummni. (2021). A guilty pleasure: The legal, social scientific and feminist verdict against rap. *Theoretical Criminology*, 26(2), 245-263.

Week 8: March 3rd

Ghost Criminology

- Fiddler, Michael. (2019). Ghosts of other stories: A synthesis of hauntology, crime and space. *Crime Media Culture*, 15(3), 463-477.
- Fiddler, Michael., Kindynis, Theo., and Linnemann, Travis. "Ghost criminology: A (spirit) guide," in Ghost Criminology: The Afterlife of Crime and Punishment. New York University Press, pp. 1-31.
- Kohm, Steven., and Lonergan, Meg D. (2026). "Sacrifice zones: Uncanny geography and spectrality in 'Butcher's Block,'" in Irena Jurkovic, Marko Lukic, and Tijana Parezanovic (eds.)'s Urban Legends: and the Cultural Geography of Horror. University of Wales press, pp. 39-54.

Week 9: March 10th

Queer Criminology

- Mitchell, Matthew., O'Neil, Tully., and Redd, Curtis. (2025). Be gay, do criminology? Affect, subjectivity, and relationality in anti-queer violence research. *Crime Media Culture*, 21(4), 579-598.
- Thorneycroft, Ryan. (2025). Troubling queer criminology's normativity. *Crime Media Culture*, 21(4), 562-578.
- Walker, Allyn., Petersen, Amanda, M., Wodda, Aimee., and Stephens, Ash. (2024). Why don't we center abolition in queer criminology? *Crime & Delinquency*, 70(5), 1443-1461.

Week 10: March 17th

Cultural Criminology in the Digital Age

- Campbell, E. (2025). Techno-Digital Policing and Speculative Fictions: Towards a Criminology of the Future. *Crime, Media, Culture*, 21(1), 69-95.
- Peeler, G., Pieri, Z. P., Grosholz, J. M., & McCullough, M. (2025). Straight Outta 4chan: Exploring the Album Art of the White Supremacist "Moon Man" Music Project. *Race and Justice*, 15(4), 722-749.
- Turner, Justin., and Milburn, Travis. (2025). Citizen Empowerment as a Police Force Multiplier: Reproducing Social Domination through a 21st Century Personal Safety App. *Crime, Media, Culture*, 21(1), 27-45.

Week 11: March 24th

Culture as Crime

Guest speaker: Canadian documentary filmmaker and multimedia artist Frederick Maheux

Loneragan, Meg D. (2023). Consuming ghost stories: The spectre of snuff films is haunting Canadian obscenity. *Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research*, 12, 146-177.

Sveinung Sandberg, Thomas Ugelvik. (2017). Why Do Offenders Tape Their Crimes? Crime and Punishment in the Age of the Selfie, *The British Journal of Criminology*, Volume 57, Issue 5, 1023-1040.

Wall, Tyler., & McClanahan, Bill. (2025). 'Little wars with the police': Aesthetic arsenals and intellects of insult. *Crime, Media, Culture*, 21(1), 3-26.

Week 12: March 31st

Crime as Culture

Hier, Sean. (2020). Almost famous: Peter Woodcock, media framing, and obscurity in the cultural construction of a serial killer. *Crime Media Culture*, 16(3), 375-394.

McIver, Ruth. (2025). The American Horror Story is real: Ryan Murphy's *Monsters* and true crime fiction as memory text. *Communication Research and Practice*, 11(3), 312-327.

Walsh, Sara M. (2024). The crime control of true crime best sellers. *Law and Humanities*, 18(1), 1-25.

April 3rd is a statutory holiday

April 8th classes follow a Friday schedule

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Policies

Assignment Formatting & Preferred Citation Style

Either APA 7 or McGill legal citations are acceptable (absolutely no MLA).

Please submit all assignments in Word format (.doc or .docx) via Brightspace.

Assignments emailed to the instructor will not be graded; only assignment uploaded via Brightspace will be marked.

Assignments uploaded in PDF will not receive the benefit of track-changed feedback.

Emails

I endeavour to answer emails within 72 hours (not including weekends or holidays).

Please do follow up if a response is not received after three business days. Only emails sent from Carleton student accounts may receive a reply.

Please ensure all communications with any university staff are always professional and respectful in tone.

Please email or ask me any questions about the course or materials—there is no such thing as a “bad” or “silly” question, only questions left unasked and unanswered.

Accommodations and Extensions

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the [Academic Accommodations website](#).

Please let me know about any accommodations required to help you be successful in your studies in this course and try to request extensions as far in advance as possible. *Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine.*

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Late policy: There is a 5% per day late penalty and assignments more than 7 days late may not be accepted.

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.

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A+ = 12.0	A+ = 6.0	A+ = 3.0	90-100%
A = 11.0	A = 5.5	A = 2.75	85-89%
A- = 10.0	A- = 5.0	A- = 2.5	80-84%
B+ = 9.0	B+ = 4.5	B+ = 2.25	77-79%
B = 8.0	B = 4.0	B = 2.0	73-76%
B- = 7.0	B- = 3.5	B- = 1.75	70-72%
C+ = 6.0	C+ = 3.0	C+ = 1.5	67-69%
C = 5.0	C = 2.5	C = 1.25	63-66%
C- = 4.0	C- = 2.0	C- = 1.0	60-62%
D+ = 3.0	D+ = 1.5	D+ = 0.75	57-59%
D = 2.0	D = 1.0	D = 0.5	53-56%

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University and Departmental Policies

Academic Integrity

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.

Academic dishonesty, in whatever form, is destructive to the values of the university, and risks harming the university's reputation as place of learning and innovation.

Furthermore, it is unfair and discouraging to those students who pursue their studies honestly

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

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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 course.

Students are also prohibited from the use of any and all generative artificial intelligence (AI) and/or language learning models (i.e., ChatGPT). Any such submission will be referred to the university's academic integrity office for review.

It is often very apparent when students rely on such tools in their academic assignments; it is more work to try to cover-up using these tools than to just do the assignment honestly. Your instructor is here to help you learn and develop your skills, please ask for help or clarification when it is needed. Academic

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dishonesty, such as using AI or any other form of plagiarism, is very serious.

Don't ask ChatGPT for help or ideas-- ask your instructor for help. You do not want to fail a course in your fourth year, and delay graduation plans due to an academic integrity offence.

Mental Health & Resources

As a 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. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Emergency Resources (on and off campus)

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

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: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or

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connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

- Empower Me Counselling Service: call 1-844-741-6389 or connect online at

<https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>

- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at

<https://good2talk.ca/>

- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service

<https://walkincounselling.com>

Link to Academic Course Calendar

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>