

Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Carleton University

Course Outline

Course: CRCJ 3201A Digital Criminology

Term: Early Summer 2026 (May-June)

Prerequisites: CRCJ 1000 and third-year standing in Criminology or by permission

Class: Online with on campus assessments

Day and Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:35am to 2:25pm

Room: Online via Zoom

Link to Brightspace page:

<https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/le/content/420526/Home>

Instructor: Meg D. Lonergan [she/they]

Contact: meglonegan@cunet.carleton.ca

Office Hours: Please email for an appointment

- Information on contacting the T.A. is available on Brightspace

You must use your Carleton email address for all correspondence with the instructor and teaching assistant.

Acknowledgement & Affirmation

ANISHNABE

Ni manàdjiyànàniḡ Màmìwinini 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 nìgànì 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.

Course Description

Digital Criminology is an online third-year course and has in-person evaluations. Lectures will be hosted online via Zoom and then uploaded to the Brightspace page for further review. The reposting or recording of lecture materials without the explicit written permission of the instructor is prohibited.

Attending the lecture material live allows for students to interact with the instructor directly and check their understanding by asking questions and participating in class discussion. Students are expected to attend *most* (if not all) of the lectures scheduled during the designated class time and must come to campus to write the midterm and final examinations.

This course introduces students to the subfield of digital criminology and explores how technology has not only changed existing criminal offences, understandings of deviance, and police investigatory techniques, but how it continues to raise new concerns related to criminalization, victimization, the protection of *Charter* rights and freedoms, and the broader pursuit of justice. Digital criminology challenges students to consider the ways that the internet and other technologies offer both new challenges and creative solutions to the injustices and problems facing Canadian society.

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing the course, students will have a good introductory understanding of what digital criminology is and a variety of key topics related to this subfield of the broader discipline of criminology. Students will engage in the dissemination of academic ideas and material (a selected reading) by non-traditional means (internet culture) through the meme assignment, which will also have students practice proper in-text citations and referencing.

Texts

All required readings and other materials will be posted and available on the course Brightspace page.

Costs

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

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.*

Please be advised that descriptions are brief overviews and should not be relied upon as instructions for completing the assignment. **Full detailed instructions, as well as related rubrics, are available in the “assignments” folder on the course Brightspace page.**

The use of generative A.I. (ChatGPT) is not permitted in this course.

Late Penalties and Extensions

Extensions for the meme assignments will be available for unforeseen circumstances or in case of illness. **Please contact the instructor as soon as possible to make these arrangements.**

Assignments will receive a 5% penalty within the first 24-hours after the due date and an additional 10% each day afterwards. Late assignments will not be accepted more than 7 days past the due date.

Assignments will not be accepted by email; please be sure to submit through the corresponding submission box on Brightspace.

University Policy on Deferred Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating circumstances, as defined in the Academic Consideration Policy, may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must: be made in writing to the Registrar's Office ***no later than three (3) working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination;*** and, ***be fully supported by appropriate documentation.*** In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must complete the University's self-declaration form which is included in the deferral application found on the [Registrar's Office website](#).

Please refer to the **Late Penalties and Extensions Policy** above for circumstances where course assignments need be deferred.

Assessment	Weight	Description	Due Date	Learning Objective
Syllabus Quiz	5%	Brightspace quiz on the information contained in the syllabus (course outline document)	Before Friday, May 22nd at noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help incentive and ensure students' familiarity with the content, assessments, and policies related to the course
Weekly Meme Assignment	(5x5%) 25%	Students will create an original meme that represents the thesis or central idea of one of the required readings assigned for the week with a 1-page explanation of the relationship of their meme to the reading	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due Friday, May 15 by noon 2. Friday, May 22nd by noon 3. Friday, June 5th by noon 4. Friday, June 12th by noon 5. Thursday, June 18th by noon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate engagement and understanding of a selection of required readings Engage in critical and creative thinking Non-traditional communication methods Practicing internet cultural communication Practicing proper academic writing, citing, and referencing
Midterm Exam (On campus)	30%	<p>A traditional closed-book midterm exam on the materials covered in the course from classes # 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.</p> <p>The midterm exam will be comprised of t/f, m/c, definitions, as well as short and long answer questions.</p>	<p>The midterm will take place during the week of May 27th</p> <p>See further details below</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test student understanding and retention of the material Practice test-taking strategies Check understanding ahead of the final exam

<p>Final Exam (On campus)</p>	<p>40%</p>	<p>A traditional closed-book examination on the materials covered in the course. Required readings, lecture materials, and other course content will serve as the basis of exam questions.</p> <p>The exam will be comprised of t/f, m/c, definitions, as well as short and long answer questions.</p>	<p>TBD during exam period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply knowledge of course materials through written responses to prompts • demonstrate necessary understanding of core course concepts, theories, themes, methodologies, and issues related to Digital Criminology
--	-------------------	--	--------------------------------------	---

A link to **Carleton's grade point scale** is available here:
<https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/cgpas/>

Overview of Course Schedule

Please keep in mind that summer courses are twelve weeks of content condensed into six weeks of learning; it is very important to stay organized and up to date on the readings, lectures, and due dates to help ensure that you are successful in the course. *Be sure to contact the T.A. or instructor with any questions!*

Course Calendar

Class #1 Wednesday, May 6th
Introduction to Digital Criminology

Stratton G, Powell A, and Cameron R. (2017). Crime and Justice in Digital Society: Towards a 'Digital Criminology'? *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, 6(2): 17-33.

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.

Class #2 Monday, May 11th
Emojis, Memes, and Online Communication

Dansei, Marcel. (2021). The Law and Emojis" Emoji Forensics. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law*, 34(4), 1117-1140.

Wagner, Anne., Marusek, Sarah., and Yu, Wei. (2020). Emojis and law: Contextualized flexibility of meaning in cyber communication. *Social Semiotics*, 30(3), 396-414.

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.

Class #3 Wednesday, May 13th

Algorithms, Coding, and Data

Minocher, Xerxes., and Randall, Caelyn. (2020). Predictable policing: New technology, old bias, and future resistance in big data surveillance. *Convergence*, 26(5-6), 1108-1124.

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.

Recommended:

Chun, Wendy Hui Kyong. (2008). On 'sorcery,' or code as fetish. *Configurations*, 16(3), 299-324.

Monday, May 18th is a statutory holiday

Class #4 Wednesday, May 20th

The Internet of Things (IoT), Privacy, and Surveillance

Hayward, Keith. (2026). Criminology and the smart city paradigm: 'Preventative technical imaginary' or 'techlash' vector? *Crime Media Culture*, 22(2), 368-388.

Milivojevic, Sanja., and Radulski, Elizabeth Marie. (2020). The 'future internet' and crime: Towards a criminology of the Internet of Things. *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, 32(2), 193-207.

Stardust, Z., Albury, K., & Kennedy, J. (2025). 'It's not just pink, fluffy handcuffs': Criminalised communities, anti-surveillance, and hacking sextech. *Crime, Media, Culture*, 21(4), 508-528.

Syllabus quiz must be completed and submitted by noon Friday, May 22nd

Class #5 Monday, May 25th

Digital Evidence and Policing

Karagiannis, C. (2023). Digital evidence 'hidden in the cloud': Is 'possession' still a relevant notion? *ERA Forum*, 23, 301-211.

Konikoff-Houpt, D. (2026). Blue walls and black boxes: Theorizing the politics of knowledge in police technology. *British Journal of Criminology*, pp. 1-20.

Maras, M.-H., & Alexandrou, A. (2019). Determining authenticity of video evidence in the age of artificial intelligence and in the wake of Deepfake videos. *The International Journal of Evidence & Proof*, 23(3), 255–262.

Class #6 Wednesday, May 27th

Midterm Exam (30%)

- **Nicol Building (NI) 4020**
- **Room opens at 11am**
- **Exam 11:30-2:25pm**
- Information about exam regulations can be found [here](#)
- *Further details are in the Midterm Exam Folder on Brightspace*

Class #7 Monday, June 1st

Artificial Intelligence (A.I)

Bibal, Adrien., Lognoul, Michael., de Streel, Alexandre., and Frénay, Benoît. (2021). Legal requirements on explainability in machine learning. *Artificial Intelligence and Law*, 29, 149-169.

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.

Class #8 Wednesday, June 3rd

Conspiracies, Hate, and Extremism

Conner, C. T., & MacMurray, N. (2022). The Perfect Storm: A Subcultural Analysis of the QAnon Movement. *Critical Sociology*, 48(6), 1049-1071.

de Roos, M. S., Veldhuizen-Ochodničanová, L., & Hanna, A. (2024). The Angry Echo Chamber: A Study of Extremist and Emotional Language Changes in Incel Communities Over Time. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 39(21–22), 4573–4597.

Holt, T. J., Chermak, S., Freilich, J. D., Turner, N. D., & Greene-Colozzi, E. (2025). An Assessment of the Harms Associated With Ideologically Motivated Cyberattacks. *Crime and Delinquency*, 71(3), 624–655.

Class #9 Monday, June 8th

The Dark Web and Online Harms

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.

Lonergan, Meg D. (2026). 'Do you hear that moaning? The conspicuous absence and haunting presence of obscenity in proposed Canadian online harms legislation. *Porn Studies*, 1-19.

Recommended:

Bechtold, Eliza. (2024). Regulating online harms: An examination of recent developments in the UK and the US through a free speech lens. *Journal of Media Law*, 1-33.

Class #10 Wednesday, June 10th

Robotics and Cyborgs

DiTecco, Delphine., and Karaian, Lara. (2023). New technology, same old stigma: Media narratives of sex robots and sex work. *Sexuality & Culture*, 27, 539-569.

Magnet, Shoshana. (2021). Military buzz: Race, robots and insects. *The Communication Review*, 24(3), 218-243.

Olivereira, Ana. (2020). Subject (in) trouble: Humans, robots, and legal imagination. *Laws*, 9 (10) 1-16.

Recommended:

Lintvedt, Naomi., and Sandvik, Kristin Bergtora. (2025). "Robots," in Kaufmann, M., & Mork, L. H. (Eds.). (2025). *De Gruyter Handbook of Digital Criminology*. Walter de Gruyter GmbH, pp. 427-434.

Class #11 Monday, June 15th

Digital Criminology Futures

Brown, M., Swayne, V., Ortiz, J. B., & Jordan, M. (2026). Digital collectives in the carceral era: Introducing Abolition Now. *Punishment & Society*, 28(2), 474-489.

Tranter, Kieran. (2021). Disrupting technology disrupting law. *Law, Culture and the Humanities*, 17(2), 158-171.

Wood, Mark A. (2019). Algorithmic tyranny: *Psycho-Pass*, science fiction and the criminological imagination. *Crime Media Culture*, 15(2), 323-340.

Class #12 Wednesday, June 17th

Exam Prep/Study Session

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 **failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.**

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 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/>

Academic Accommodation

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

[\(https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/\)](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/).