

Carleton University

Institute of Criminology & Criminal Justice

Course Outline

COURSE: CRCJ 2200A Contemporary Issues in Criminology

TERM: Fall 2026 - In person

PREREQUISITES: CRCJ 1000

CLASS: Day & Time: Friday 11:35am-2:25pm
 Room: Please check Carleton Central for current room location

INSTRUCTOR: Madalena Santos, Associate Professor, PhD
 TEACHING ASSISTANTS: TBA

CONTACT: Office: 1713 Dunton Tower
 Office hours: Thursday 12-1pm or by appointment
 Email: madalenasantos@cunet.carleton.ca *
 Brightspace: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/449235>

* You must use your Carleton email address in all correspondence with the instructor and teaching assistants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & AFFIRMATION ANISHNABE

Ni manàdjiyànàni Màmìwininì Anishinàbeg, ogog kà nàgadawàbandadjig iyo akì eko weshkad. Ako nongom ega wìkàd kì mìgiwewàdj.

Ni manàdjiyànàni kakina Anishinàbeg ondaje kaye ogog kakina eniyagizidjig enigokamigàg Kanadàng eji ondàpinangig endàwàdjìn Odàwàng.

Ninisidawinawànàni kenawendamòdjig kije kikenindamàwin; weshkinìgidjig kaye kejeyàdizidjig. Nigijeweninmànàni 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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will address some of the most pressing issues in criminology today. Students will examine debates on current topics related to police use of force and deaths in custody; drug decriminalization, unregulated drug program alternatives, forced involuntary treatment and the policing of dark digital drug markets; policing technologies, including facial recognition, phone hacking, machine learning, and algorithms; technological crimes, such as deepfakes, scams and doxing; crimes related to wealth

inequality, including white collar crimes and neo vagrancy laws which criminalize encampments; crimes related to land, such as environmental crimes, and forms of resistance from Indigenous communities, including Indigenous legal frameworks and conceptions of justice.

The course will be oriented around the concept of *criminalization*, a main organizing principle in contemporary society. Talking about contemporary criminological issues using the frame of criminalization moves discussions about crime in society away from an understanding that crime is inherent or natural in certain people or communities. Instead, the notion of criminalization acknowledges that what comes to be understood as against the law *is constructed* by social, political, cultural, and economic forces.

Throughout the course, students will learn to engage with critical criminological approaches including intersectional, abolitionist and transformative justice frameworks to examine ongoing issues, debates, and movements. Informed by Indigenous, Black, anti-racist, and feminist readings, this course will critically examine criminalization, racial and colonial injustice, policing, and punitive practices. This 2nd year undergraduate level course aims to build upon foundational concepts from CRCJ 1000 and will prepare students for courses at the 3rd and 4th year level.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, successful students will have demonstrated their ability to:

- Identify, compare, and contrast an array of important contemporary criminological issues and appraise different theoretical frameworks and approaches;
- Define and explain the concept of criminalization and its application to contemporary socio-legal issues in Canadian society, debates, and movements;
- Critically examine racial and colonial injustice, policing, and punitive practices through engaging with real-world problems.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

No one textbook can attend to the many complex and current issues this course will address, and therefore the required readings of this course will include a range of articles, book chapters, videos, and other online resources. All the required readings are available for free and are accessible via ARES in Brightspace. For more details on each reading, see the Course Schedule below.

Paper for weekly in-class written reflections – You are required to bring your own paper for weekly in-class writing reflections sessions. You may use lined notebook paper (**which can be removed**) or loose-leaf paper. Please ensure that you have enough for the term and bring a pencil or pen to write.

Paper Costs- approximately \$4.49 to \$13.99 per pack. You may purchase paper at the university bookstore or at a place of your choosing.

COURSE INFORMATION

- This course is offered in person.
- Students are required to do the corresponding readings for each class (see schedule below).
- Attendance is mandatory.
- For a complete breakdown of the various components of evaluation, please see the evaluation section below.

GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Stay on top of the reading assignments in this course.

As with most second year survey courses, there is a great deal of reading, and it can pile up very quickly and become overwhelming. Make time to do the required readings each week.

2. Engage with the many resources available through the university.

The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning both inside and outside the classroom. CSAS offers academic assistance with course content, academic writing and skills development. Visit CSAS online at: carleton.ca/csas.

3. Reach out

If you are having trouble understanding the material in the course, contact your TA or Professor sooner rather than later. **We are here to help you learn.**

POLICIES

1. Contact with Professor

I will be available for consultation with students in person during my office hours. If you would like to meet online, please email me at madalenasantos@cunet.carleton.ca to set up an appointment.

*Make sure to add the course code and section in the subject line. **Both online and in person meetings will take place on weekdays only.***

2. Email Policy

Every student is expected to have a Carleton email address and to check it regularly. If there is a matter that you should know about regarding the course, an email may be sent to your Carleton account.

University policy directs professors not to send email to students at any other addresses. I read and respond to email between 8:30am-5:00pm on weekdays. Email will generally be returned within 1-2 days. Make sure to add the course code and section in the subject line.

Email messages to me or the TAs should not include:

- questions already addressed in the course outline, Brightspace, or the lectures;
- requests for extra credit assignments;
- questions about whether required readings are required.

3. Extra Credit

There are **no extra** credit/alternative assessments or makeups for missed classes and/or poor grades. This policy applies to class participation & in-class writing reflections, the midterm, and final exam.

4. Discussing Your Grade

Please wait at least 48 hours before contacting the TAs to discuss your grade. Discussions about grades will only take place in-person (or via zoom) and will not be negotiated via email. If you are still dissatisfied after this process then please contact me.

Evaluation	Grade Percentage	Due Date
Participation & In-class Writing Reflections	20%	Every class
Mid-term exam – written in class	35%	Week 7
Final exam – in person	45%	Exam period

1. Class Participation & In-Class Writing Reflections 20%

Attendance in this course is mandatory. Students are expected to attend class and actively participate in class discussions. Active participation does not always mean talking a lot and taking up space, it also means listening and engaging in respectful conversation with others. In-class writing reflections will be used to evaluate participation. To demonstrate engagement in each class, at the end of each lecture you will need to respond in writing to the following three questions: 1. what was the most significant thing you learned that day? 2. what was something you disagreed with or found unclear?, and 3. what interesting or surprising things did you learn through the reading and lecture for the day?.

2. Midterm in-person 35%

The in-class midterm will consist of a series of short answer, true and false, and multiple-choice questions based on the content of all course material up to week 6. More information about the midterm will be provided during class time.

2. Final exam in-person 45% final

The final in-person exam will take place during the formal examination period and will be scheduled by Examination Services. The final will include a series of short answer, true and false, and multiple-choice questions based on the content of all course material. More information will be provided later in the term.

All components of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade.

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.

WITHDRAWAL

September 30 is the last day to withdraw from fall term courses with full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript. **November 15** is the last day for academic withdrawal from a fall course. For more information, please see <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.3>

Schedule

Please note that occasionally the lecture schedule may vary slightly from the course outline

Week 1: Sept 11 Introduction & Course Concepts	Required The course syllabus! Merry, Sally Engle. "The Criminalization of Everyday Life." In <i>Everyday Practices and Trouble Cases</i>, edited by Austin Sarat, Marianne Constable, David Engel. Valerie Hand and Susan Lawrence, 14-40. Evanston, Ill: Northwestern University Press, 1998. Murdocca, Carmela. "Racialization, Criminalization, Representation." In <i>Criminalization, Representation, Regulation: Thinking Differently about Crime</i>, edited by Deborah R Brock, Amanda Glasbeek, and Carmela Murdocca, 107-32. 1st ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014. Suggested Brockman, Joan, and Janet E. Mosher. "Introduction." In <i>Constructing Crime: Contemporary Processes of Criminalization</i>, 1-16. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010. https://doi.org/10.1515/9780774818216.
Week 2 – Sept 18 Drugs Part 1: Decriminalization, legal regulation, safe supply & involuntary treatment	Required Bahji, Anees, Philip Leger, Aditya Nidumolu, Barbara Watts, Sumeet Dama, Angela Hamilton, and Robert Tanguay. "Effectiveness of Involuntary Treatment for Individuals with Substance Use Disorders: A Systematic Review." <i>Canadian Journal of Addiction</i> 14, no. 4 (December 2023): 6-18. https://doi.org/10.1097/CXA.0000000000000188 Canadian Drug Policy Coalition. <i>Decriminalization Done Right: A Rights-Based Path for Drug Policy</i>. Vancouver: Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, 2021. Pivot Legal Society. <i>Involuntary Treatment: Criminalization by Another Name</i>. Vancouver: Pivot Legal Society, 2023. Suggested British Columbia. Ministry of Health. "Province Launches Secure Care for People with Brain Injury, Mental Illness, Severe Addiction." Press release, September 15, 2024. Gagnon, Marilou, Katherine Rudzinski, Adrian Guta, Rose A. Schmidt, David T. Kryszajts, Gillian Kolla, and Carol Strike. "Impact of Safer Supply Programs on Injection Practices: Client and Provider Experiences in Ontario, Canada." <i>Harm Reduction Journal</i> 20, no. 1 (2023): 81. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-023-

	00817-7. Tyndall, Mark, and Zoë Dodd. “How Structural Violence, Prohibition, and Stigma Have Paralyzed North American Responses to Opioid Overdose.” <i>AMA Journal of Ethics</i> 22, no. 8 (2020): E723–E728. https://doi.org/10.1001/amajethics.2020.723. Wakefield, Jonny. “Sympathy for the Crack House: Drug Houses Serve Important Role, Advocates Tell Edmonton Drug Policy Conference.” <i>Edmonton Journal</i>, October 4, 2018. Wallace-Wells, Benjamin. “Is There a Case for Legalizing Heroin? The Addiction Researcher Carl Hart Argues against the Distinction between Hard and Soft Drugs.” <i>The New Yorker</i>, April 29, 2021.
Week 3 – Sept 25 Land & Environment Part 1: Indigenous resistance, land back & Indigenous law	Required Cornthassel, Jeff. “Indigenous Laws on Indigenous Lands: Land Back as Community Resurgence.” <i>Rooted: A Publication on Indigenous Law</i> 1, no. 2 (2021): 15–23. Cunneen, Chris, and Juan Tauri. “Chapter 1: Introduction.” In <i>Indigenous Criminology</i>. Bristol: Policy Press, 2016. ProQuest Ebook Central. Suggested Chandler, Justin. “Broken Promises, Unceded Land: The History Behind the Land Back Lane Protest.” <i>TVO Today</i>, January 5, 2021. Palmater, Pam. “Canada, It’s Time for Land Back.” <i>The Breach</i>, June 2, 2021. Unist’ot’en Camp. “Reconciliation Is Dead: RCMP Invade Unist’ot’en Territory.” YouTube video, 7:00. February 13, 2020.
Week 4 – Oct 2 Land & Environment Part 2: Environmental crimes and green criminology	Required Lynch, Michael J. “Green Criminology and Environmental Crime: Criminology That Matters in the Age of Global Ecological Collapse.” <i>Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime</i> 1, no. 1 (2020): 50–61. https://doi.org/10.1177/2631309X19876930. Mathieson, Karl. “Just Stop Oil Protesters Jailed for Throwing Soup at Van Gogh’s ‘Sunflowers’.” <i>Politico</i>, September 27, 2024. Nurse, Angus. “Green Criminology: Shining a Critical Lens on Environmental Harm.” <i>Palgrave Communications</i> 3, no. 1 (2017): 10. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-017-0007-2. White, Rob. “The Foundations of Eco-Global Criminology.” In <i>Eco-Global Crimes: Contemporary Problems and Future Challenges</i>, edited by Rune

	Ellefsen and Ragnhild Sollund, 15–31. Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2012.
Week 5 – Oct 9 Poverty & Wealth Part 1: Encampments/neo-vagrancy FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE AVAILABLE ONLINE	Required Flynn, Alexandra, Joe Herner, Caroline Leblanc, Sue-Ann MacDonald, Kaitlin Schwan, and Estair Van Wagner. <i>Overview of Encampments Across Canada: A Right to Housing Approach</i>. Ottawa: Office of the Federal Housing Advocate, Canadian Human Rights Commission, 2022. Suggested Boucher, Lisa M., Zoë Dodd, Samantha Young, Abeera Shahid, Ahmed Bayoumi, Michelle Firestone, and Claire E. Kendall. “They Have Their Security, We Have Our Community: Mutual Support among People Experiencing Homelessness in Encampments in Toronto during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” <i>SSM – Qualitative Research in Health</i> 2 (2022): 100163. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmqr.2022.100163. Kanji, Azeezah, and A. J. Withers. “The encampment evictions in Toronto are a crystallisation of multiple layers of violence involved in sustaining settler control over Indigenous land,” 2021. Law, Sarah. “Ontario Plans for Tougher Encampment Rules Stir Emotional Debate, Including among Thunder Bay Shelter Users.” CBC News, December 9, 2024 Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre. “Moss Park TV: Moss Park Community Says ‘No’ to Encampment Evictions.” Community Media Portal, 2021. Stranger, Darrell. “Advocates Speaking Out after Homeless Encampment Forcibly Removed by Toronto Police.” APN News, July 22, 2021.
Week 6: Oct 16 Poverty & Wealth Part 2: Crimes of the powerful	Required Buckley, Michelle. “Mapping Wage Theft in the Informal Economy: Employment Standards Violations in Residential Construction and Renovations.” <i>Relations industrielles / Industrial Relations</i> 75, no. 3 (2020): 502–525. https://doi.org/10.7202/1072345ar Rothe, Dawn L., and David O. Friedrichs. “Crimes of the Powerful: An Agenda for a Twenty-First-Century Criminology.” In <i>Routledge Handbook of Critical Criminology</i>, edited by Walter S. DeKeseredy and Molly Dragiewicz. New York: Routledge, 2018. Suggested Shantz, Jeff. “Fighting the Real Grocery Store Thieves.” <i>Spring Magazine</i>, August 30, 2023. “Why Policing is Not the Answer to Shoplifting at Grocery Stores in Canada.” <i>Retail Insider</i>, December 6, 2023.

Week 7 – Oct 23 In-class Midterm	NO READINGS
FALL BREAK Oct 26 – 30	
Week 8 – Nov 6 Drugs Part 2: Digital drug markets, trafficking, and interdiction	Required Martin, James, Ian Warren, and Monique Mann. “Policing Cryptomarkets and the Digital War on Drugs.” In <i>Drug Law Enforcement, Policing and Harm Reduction: Ending the Stalemate</i>, edited by Matthew Bacon and Jack Spicer, 111–131. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2022. Ray, Bradley, Steven J. Korzeniewski, George Mohler, Jennifer J. Carroll, Brandon del Pozo, Grant Victor, Philip Huynh, and Bethany J. Hedden. “Spatiotemporal Analysis Exploring the Effect of Law Enforcement Drug Market Disruptions on Overdose, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2020–2021.” <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> 113, no. 7 (2023): 750–758. https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2023.307291 Suggested Baker, Rafferty. “Do Big Drug Busts Actually Cause More Harm? Researchers and Advocates for Drug Policy Reform Argue Drug Seizures Lead to More Overdoses and Violence.” CBC News, November 22, 2024. Childs, Andrew, and Ausma Bernot. “The Platformisation of Illicit Drug Markets: How Datafication, Technological Affordances, and Platform-Mediated Labour Practices Shape Illicit Drug Markets.” <i>Crime, Media, Culture: An International Journal</i> 21, no. 2 (2025): 149–168. https://doi.org/10.1177/17416590241254519. Demant, Jakob, Silje Anderdal Bakken, Atte Oksanen, and Helgi Gunnlaugsson. “Drug Dealing on Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram: A Qualitative Analysis of Novel Drug Markets in the Nordic Countries.” <i>Drug and Alcohol Review</i> 38, no. 4 (2019): 377–385. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.12932. Mann, Brian. “Politicians Want Cop Crackdowns on Drug Dealers. Experts Say Tough Tactics Cost Lives.” All Things Considered, NPR, July 6, 2023.
Week 9 – Nov 13 Technology Part 1: Policing/surveillance technologies facial recognition, Pegasus & Palantir	Required Brayne, Sarah. “Big Data Surveillance: The Case of Policing.” <i>American Sociological Review</i> 82, no. 5 (2017): 977–1008. https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122417725865. Smith, Gavin J. D., Lyria Bennett Moses, and Janet Chan. “The Challenges of Doing Criminology in the Big Data Era: Towards a Digital and Data-Driven Approach.” <i>The British Journal of Criminology</i> 57, no. 2 (2017): 259–274.

	https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azw096. Suggested Bongiorno, Joe. "Facial Recognition Technology Gains Popularity with Police, Intensifying Calls for Regulation: RCMP Was Previously Reprimanded for Using Technology Without Public's Knowledge." <i>CBC News</i>, July 2, 2024. Boutilier, Alex. "RCMP Has Used Spyware to Access Targets' Communications as Far Back as 2002: Senior Mountie." <i>CBC News</i>, August 8, 2022. Buolamwini, Joy. <i>Unmasking AI: My Mission to Protect What Is Human in a World of Machines</i>. New York: Random House Publishing Group, 2023. Canadian Human Rights Commission. <i>Facial Recognition Technology Use in Policing</i>. Ottawa: Canadian Human Rights Commission, April 15, 2022. Heaven, Will Douglas. "Predictive Policing Algorithms Are Racist. They Need to Be Dismantled." <i>MIT Technology Review</i>, July 17, 2020. Reevely, David, and Murad Hemmadi. "Ontario Provincial Police Use Controversial Data-Mining Platform Palantir for Crime Analysis." <i>The Logic</i>, October 20, 2022.
Week 10 – Nov 20 Technology Part 2: Technological crimes: deep fakes, online scams, doxing, AI forges in court	Required Adorjan, Michael, and Claudio Colaguori. "Scams, Fraud, and Cybercrime in a Globalized Society." In <i>Crime, Deviance, and Social Control in the 21st Century: A Justice and Rights Perspective</i>, edited by Claudio Colaguori. Toronto: Canadian Scholars, 2023. Karaian, Lara. "Addressing Deepfake Porn Doesn't Require New Criminal Laws, Which Can Restrict Sexual Fantasy and Promote the Prison System." <i>The Conversation</i>, March 24, 2024. Suggested Trottier, Daniel. "Denunciation and Doxing: Towards a Conceptual Model of Digital Vigilantism." <i>Global Crime</i> 21, nos. 3–4 (2020): 196–212. https://doi.org/10.1080/17440572.2019.1591952
Week 11: Nov 27 Oversight, punishment, and use of force	Required Crosby, Andrew, Alexander McClelland, Tanya L. Sharpe, Evelyn Maeder, Catherine Stinson, Kanika Samuels Wortley, Karyn Graham, Rina Faiyaz Khan, and Zhongmin Lin. "Tracking (In)Justice: Documenting Fatal Encounters with Police in Canada." <i>Canadian Journal of Law and Society / Revue Canadienne</i>

	<i>Droit et Société</i> 40, no. 1 (2025): 23–47. https://doi.org/10.1017/cls.2025.1 Speight, Sarah, and Alexander McClelland. <i>Ontario Deaths in Custody on the Rise</i>. Tracking (In)Justice: A Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice Data & Transparency Project, December 2022. Ontario Chief Coroner’s Expert Panel on Deaths in Custody. <i>An Obligation to Prevent: Report from the Ontario Chief Coroner’s Expert Panel on Deaths in Custody</i>. Toronto: Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, December 2022. Suggested Ramzy, Mina. “Canada’s First Database to Track In-Custody Deaths Has Been Released: Here’s What It Reveals.” Toronto Star, August 9, 2024.
Week 12: Dec 4 Exam Prep Session	NO READINGS

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 quotation 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/>)