

Carleton University
Institute of Criminology & Criminal Justice
CRCJ 2200 Section N Contemporary Issues in Criminology
Course Outline Fall 2021

Instructor: Jacqueline Briggs

Office: [To Be Confirmed and posted to Brightspace course page]

Office Hours: Mondays after class (or virtual, by appointment)

Email: jacquelinebriggs@carleton.ca

Classroom Location: Minto Centre 2000 (Please check Carleton Central for current room location in case of changes.)

Class time: Mondays 8:35 am to 11:25 am.

Prerequisites: CRCJ 1000 and Second Year Standing

Method of Delivery: In person – see note below.

Teaching Assistant: Maeve Macdonald

Email: maevemacdonald@cmail.carleton.ca

TA Office Hours: [TBA]

Note from Instructor regarding in-person learning.

Please note this is an in-person class with a weekly lecture and some in-class evaluations (quizzes and final test). In addition to the weekly meetings, the course includes a Brightspace course website to access the required readings and to upload the assignments with flexible due dates. Students are expected to attend class in person, and to complete evaluations such as the quizzes and the final test in person.

Guideline from University regarding in-person learning.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be taken in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will address some of the most pertinent issues facing Canadian society today and in the field of Critical Criminology. Students will examine various topics on carceral colonialism, racial profiling, movements for racial justice, 'big data' policing practices such as facial recognition, right-wing extremism, homelessness, the criminalization of drugs and alcohol, social media and virtual courts in the Covid-19 era.

The course is oriented around the concept of *criminalization*. Talking about contemporary criminological issues using the frame 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, and will apply these ideas to examining ongoing issues, debates, and movements. Informed by Indigenous, Black, anti-racist, queer and feminist readings, this course will critically examine criminalization, racial and colonial injustice, policing and punitive practices. Following completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of matters of current concern in the field.

CRCJ 2200 has been co-developed through collaboration by your instructor Jacqueline Briggs, along with ICCJ Professors Natasha Stirrett and Alexander McClelland.

EVALUATIONS: (All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade)

- 25% **Quizzes:** 5 x 5% each
 - **Quiz dates:** September 20th, October 4th, October 18th, November 1st, November 15th (approx. 10 questions each)
 - Missed quizzes can be made-up in class at a later date.
 - Quizzes will be based on lectures and readings, and will include opportunities to reflect on the course via short answers.
- 45% **Reading responses:** 3 x 15% each
 - **Response 1:** written format, approx. 3 pages – submit anytime between September 13th and October 4th
 - **Response 2:** written format, approx. 3 pages– submit anytime between October 11th and November 1st
 - **Response 3:** audio recording or slide presentation format – submit anytime between November 8th and December 10th
 - Reading responses will facilitate development of writing and presentation skills to communicate students' critical engagement with the course topics and readings.
- 25% **In Class Final Test** on November 22, 2021

- The final test will allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding via short answer and short essay questions.
- 5% **Student choice assignment:** Submit anytime up to December 10th
 - The student choice assignment is a personal or professional development activity chosen by the student, and is evaluated based on a 2 or 3 page written reflection on the activity. Examples of activities could include: developing a new skill via [LinkedIn Learning](#) (free for Carleton students!), participating in the [From Intention to Action](#) (FITA) program, or even some [Learning Support Sessions](#). Explore the Carleton Student Services pages for more ideas: <https://students.carleton.ca/>

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.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All readings will be available (for free) through the Carleton Library and can be accessed via the Brightspace course page.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS (None.)

STATEMENT ON 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, art works, 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;
- 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

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.

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).

SCHEDULE and READINGS

Week 1 – Monday September 13th

Introduction and Course Concepts

Readings:

- Merry, Sally. 1998. “The Criminalization of Everyday Life” in *Everyday Practices and Trouble Cases* ed. Austin Sarat. Northwestern University Press, pgs. 14-40.
- Murdocca, Carmela. 2014. “Racialization, Criminalization, Representation” in *Criminalization, Representation, Regulation: Thinking Differently About Crime*, pg. 107-132.

Week 2 – Monday September 20th

Anti-Black Racism in the Justice System

Readings:

- Samuels-Wortley, Kanika. 2021. “To Serve and Protect Whom? Using Composite Counter-Storytelling to Explore Black and Indigenous Youth Experiences and Perceptions of the Police in Canada” *Crime & Delinquency*, 67(8), 1137–1164.
- Owusu-Bempah, Akwasi. 2021. “Race, Policing, and Social Unrest During the Covid-19 Pandemic” in *Impacts of Covid-19 in Racialized Communities*, eds. Henry et al. Royal Society of Canada, https://rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/RC%20PB_EN%20FINAL.pdf#page=73

Week 3 – Monday September 27th

Indigenous Peoples, Carceral Colonialism, and Resistance

Readings:

- Palmater, Pam. 2018. “Confronting Racism and Over-Incarceration of Indigenous Peoples in Canada” *Journal of Community Corrections*, 27(2), pgs. 5–20.
- Rai, Reece. “Carceral Redlining: White Supremacy is a Weapon of Mass Incarceration for Indigenous and Black Peoples in Canada” *Yellowhead Institute*, 25 June 2020, <https://yellowheadinstitute.org/2020/06/25/carceral-redlining-white-supremacy-is-a-weapon-of-mass-incarceration-for-indigenous-and-black-peoples-in-canada/>
 - And read the accompanying infographics here: <https://yellowheadinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/carceral-redlining-yellowhead-institute-infographics.pdf>

Week 4 – Monday October 4th

Movements for Racial Justice and Calls to Defund Police

Readings:

- Maynard, Robin. 2020. Police Abolition/Black Revolt. *Topia: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*, 41(1), 70–78. <https://doi.org/10.3138/topia-009>
- Riddle, Emily. “Abolish the Police: The Financial Cost of Law Enforcement in Prairie Cities.” *Yellowhead Institute*, <https://yellowheadinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/e-riddle-abolish-the-police-yi-brief.pdf>
- Data for Black Lives: <https://d4bl.org/>

Week 5 – Monday October 11th – statutory holiday, no class

Week 6 – Monday October 18th

Big Data Surveillance, and Approaches to Countering Right-Wing Extremism

Readings:

- Brayne, Sarah. 2017. “Big Data Surveillance: The Case of Policing.” *American Sociological Review* 82(5), pgs. 977-1008. ^[1]_[SEP]
- Devich-Cyril, Malika. 2020. “Defund Facial Recognition.” *The Atlantic* July 5, 2020. Online: <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2020/07/defund-facial-recognition/613771/> ^[1]_[SEP]
- Moonshot CVE [Countering Violent Extremism]. 2020. *Covid-19: Increase in Far-Right Searches in Canada*. Online: <http://moonshotcve.com/covid-19-increase-in->

Week 7 – Monday October 25th – Carleton fall term break – no class

Week 8 – Monday November 1st

The Homelessness Crisis and Policing of People Living in Poverty

Readings:

- Galabuzi, Grace-Edward. 2010. Chapter 5. “The Intersecting Experience of Racialized Poverty and the Criminalization of the Poor” in: (eds: Crocker, Diane; Johnston, Val Marie) *Poverty, Regulation and Social Justice: Readings on the Criminalization of Poverty*.
- [excerpts from] Thistle, Adrian Jesse. 2017. “*Definition of Indigenous Homelessness in Canada*”. Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. <https://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHIndigenousHomelessnessDefinition.pdf>
- Azeezah Kanji & AJ Withers. 2021. “Encampment Evictions: Another Face of Colonial Violence in Canada” *Al Jazeera* <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/7/20/encampment-evictions-another-face-of-colonial-violence-in-canada>

Week 9 – Monday November 8th

The “War on Drugs” and the Overdose Crisis

Readings:

- Tyndall, Mark, & Dodd, Zoë. 2020. “How Structural Violence, Prohibition, and Stigma Have Paralyzed North American Responses to Opioid Overdose” *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics* 22(8): 723-728.

- Dyck, Erica. 2021. "Canada Dry or High Times?: A Historiographical Look at Drugs and Alcohol in Canada" *Canadian Historical Review* 102(2), pgs. 339-363.

Week 10 – Monday November 15th

Social Media and Virtual Courts

Readings:

- Small, Tamara & Puddister, Kate. 2020. "Play-by-Play Justice: Tweeting Criminal Trials in the Digital Age" *Canadian Journal of Law and Society* 35(1), pgs. 1-22. ^[1]_[SEP]
- Puddister, Kate & Small, Tamara. 2020. "Trial by Zoom? The Response to COVID-19 by Canada's Courts" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 53(2) pgs. 373-377.

Week 11 – Monday November 22nd

In class test

Week 12 – Monday November 29th

Guest visit from ICCJ placement program coordinator.

Week 13 – Monday December 6th

Student Choice Day [discussion of student choice activity reflections]

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students may need special arrangements to meet academic obligations during the term. For accommodation requests the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation:

Please write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form [click here](#).

Religious obligation:

Please write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation

from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>