

## Course Outline

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<b>COURSE:</b>	<b>LAWS 2302 C - Criminal Law</b>
<b>TERM:</b>	<b>Winter 2026</b>
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	<b>LAWS 1001 and 1002</b>
<b>CLASS:</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time: Wednesdays 8:35 – 11:25 AM</b> <b>Room: Please check Carleton Central for current Class Schedule</b> Course delivery is <b>in-person</b> unless otherwise specified in advance in writing (if exceptional mitigating circumstances arise)
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	<b>Dr. Rebecca Jaremko Bromwich, PhD, MBA, LLM, LLB</b>
<b>CONTACT:</b>	<b>Office Hrs:</b> By appointment, either in person or on TEAMS/Zoom <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:rebeccabromwich@cunet.carleton.ca">rebeccabromwich@cunet.carleton.ca</a> Emails will be responded to within 48 hours.  <a href="https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/366326">https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/366326</a>
<b>BRIGHTSPACE:</b>	

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### CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

The legal and social dimensions of criminal liability and responsibility in Canada, including issues and problems surrounding *mens rea*, *actus reus*, and the attachment of liability. Excuses and justifications, the *Canadian Criminal Code* and the role of the *Charter* in the criminal legal system.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a complement to LAWS 2301 and will be a venue for further critical analysis and exploration of, the current Canadian Criminal Legal System, including its institutions, processes, rules, and actors. Criminal law will be studied within its general social setting and to examine the interrelationship between the aspirations and practices of Canadian society and its formal legal discourses of criminal law.

The course introduces students to both legal and social dimensions of Canadian criminal law. Sentencing principles and objectives will be discussed, with a look at how they are implemented in practice. Time permitting, we will also review some of the recent changes

Parliament has brought to our criminal law.

A strong emphasis is placed on practical aspects of the law and how the players within the legal system achieve justice. In the latter part of the course, the focus will be on the criminal law in its more traditional formulations as found in The Criminal Code of Canada and in the cases, along with specific current issues in Canada.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, students will be expected to be able to:

- Communicate in detail an understanding of how the formal discourses of the criminal law are currently employed in Canada's criminal justice system;
- Demonstrate comprehension of, by be able to work with, basic criminal law concepts such as the actus reus and mens rea elements of criminal offences, along with various routes to criminal liability;
- Demonstrate familiarity with a wide range of defences to criminal charges, both from the common law tradition and the Criminal Code;
- Show an appreciation that Canada's current criminal justice regime exists in a changing, postcolonial, historical, geographical and social context and be able to critically analyze how that context affects the operation of criminal justice law;
- Demonstrate critical thinking about other possible ways to address criminal offending, with reference to changing approaches in Canada and current regimes in other jurisdictions; and
- Critically analyze representations of criminal behaviour in popular culture and formal legal text.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

**Required** texts are as follows:

Jaremko Bromwich, Rebecca *A Big (Legal) Picture* (Toronto: Kendall Hunt, 2025) (referred to on reading scheduled as BLP)

<https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/big-legal-picture-introduction-legal-studies-2>

**\*\* this is an online text that must be downloaded from the publisher at the URL above\*\***

This text costs approximately \$75 and must be purchased from the publisher directly. It is an online text and students purchase a licence. It was developed by the course instructor with a specific view to support Carleton LAWS courses.

Saunders, Ron and Jaremko Bromwich, Rebecca, *Criminal Law in Canada: An Introduction to the Theoretical, Social and Legal Context 5th Edition*

**\*\*This book is available for purchase from The Campus Store website for \$225:**

<https://carletonshop.ca/Item?item=9780779872985#item=9780779872985>

Used copies of this text are completely acceptable, and there are many affordable copies available. You are welcome to purchase a used copy of the book so long as it is the 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Prices will vary.

## **EVALUATION**

### **1. Final Examination**

**35%** - Held in exam period (April 2026)

**\*\*exact date to be posted later in the semester\*\***

### **2. Essay Assignment- Blog Post**

**40%** due February 15, 2026

This is a persuasive essay written in a format for online posting.

**\*\* Selected blogs will be given the opportunity for posting on Robsoncrim.com, offering national exposure for online publication. Selection for this opportunity will be made by Professor.**

### **3. Participation**

**25%** self-assessment due April 1, 2026

This involves three elements:

- a) Attendance
  - b) Participation in class
  - c) A reflective self-assessment submitted on April 1, 2026
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the Department and 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 Department and the Dean.
  - All components must be successfully completed in order to get a passing grade.
  - Students who cannot attend on-campus assessments in person may apply to write their exams remotely, if they meet certain criteria. More information for instructors and students is available at <https://carleton.ca/ses/distance-exams/>.
  - Assessments will occur on campus outside of regular class time (which can include Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday).

### **LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS**

The granting of extensions is at the discretion of the instructor, who will confirm whether an extension is approved and its duration. For information about requesting short-term or long-term extensions, deferrals for final exams, or academic consideration due to illness, injury, or other extraordinary circumstances, please visit the Academic Consideration Policy page and complete the relevant forms as required. All requests must be submitted to the instructor before the assignment due date or, in the case of exam deferrals, directly to the Registrar's Office. Full details and instructions can be found here: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-policy/>.

#### **Final Grade Approval**

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.

### **SCHEDULE**

Lecture	Topic	Date	Reading
Lecture 1	Introduction and Course Overview; Distribution of Essay Assignment	January 7, 2026	BLP Chapter 1 (BLP is an online resource and page numbers are not consistent. Please note it is a <b>brief</b> , back up reference so the chapters are not long and are general)
Lecture 2	Criminal Liability – Actus Reus	January 14, 2026	Chapter 6.1 BLP Chapter 5 (all pages in chapter)
Lecture 3	Criminal Liability – Mens Rea	January 21, 2026	Chapter 6.2 BLP Chapter 5(all pages in chapter)
Lecture 4	Strict and Absolute Liability Offences	January 28, 2026	Chapter 6.1.3 BLP Chapter 5(all pages in chapter)
Lecture 5	Incomplete Offences: Attempts, Counselling and Conspiracy	February 4, 2026	Chapter 6.2
Lecture 6	The Limits of	February 11,	Chapter 6.3

	Liability	2026	
Winter Break	No Classes	February 18, 2026	
Lecture 7	Sentencing and Punishment	February 25, 2026	Chapter 5(all pages in chapter) BLP Chapter 5(all pages in chapter)
Lecture 8	Defences: Duress, Necessity, Self Defence, Defence of Property, Consent	March 4, 2026	Chapter 7.1
Paper Due	Essay Assignment Due	March 11, 2026	NO CLASS
Lecture 9	Defences: Mistake of Fact, Ignorance of the Law	March 18, 2026	Chapter 7.2
Lecture 10	Defences: Entrapment; Charter Protections ("Policy" Defences)	March 25, 2026	Chapter 7.3 BLP Chapter 1 and 4(all pages in chapters)
Lecture 11	Defences: Incapacity; Provocation, Mental Disorder, Intoxication, Automatism & Exam Review	April 1, 2026	Chapter 7.4
Review class and practice question Participation Self-Assessment Due	Submit self-assessment	April 8, 2026	Cumulative review of course material
Final Exam Period	Formally scheduled exam period	April 11-23 2026	*final exam to be scheduled during this time*

### Permissibility of Submitting Substantially the Same Piece of Work for Academic Credit

Students are allowed to re-use a portion of their own work from previous assignments or courses, provided they acquire necessary approvals from the instructor and acknowledge and properly cite the portions that were previously submitted. For instance, if a student has already written a paper on a similar topic, they may incorporate findings or arguments from

that earlier work but must indicate where these come from. Students should seek approval from the instructor if they are unsure whether their submission meets the criteria. Submitting work without clear acknowledgment of reused material will be considered a violation of academic integrity.

### **Cooperation or Collaboration**

Collaboration is permitted in specific instances where the instructor allows it. For example, group projects or collaborative assignments may be part of the course, in which case students are encouraged to work together and divide the tasks evenly. In all other cases (such as individual assignments), students must complete their work independently.

### **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools**

Students may use AI tools like ChatGPT, but only in specific, limited ways. AI tools can be used to assist with tasks such as gathering ideas, researching initial sources, or proofreading a final draft for grammar and style. However, students are not allowed to use AI to organize or communicate their core ideas. The focus of the course is on developing original thought and critical thinking skills, so AI should not be relied upon for creating the main content of an assignment. Any use of AI must be clearly documented and cited, including the prompts used and how the tool assisted in the process.

## **UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES**

### **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; 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.

### **STATEMENT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH**

As a University 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):

- <https://wellness.carleton.ca/get-help-now/>

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: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

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

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows.

#### **Pregnancy and Family-Status Related Accommodations**

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 about the accommodation policy, visit the [Equity and Inclusive Communities \(EIC\)](#) website.

#### **Religious Obligation**

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, please go to: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>.

#### **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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. You can find the Paul Menton Centre online at: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

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 must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. Read more here: <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please visit: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/accommodation/>.

### **Academic Consideration for Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances**

Due to medical and other extenuating circumstances, students may occasionally be unable to fulfill the academic requirements of their course(s) in a timely manner. The University supports the academic development of students and aims to provide a fair environment for students to succeed academically. Medical and/or other extenuating circumstances are circumstances that are beyond a student's control, have a significant impact on the student's capacity to meet their academic obligations, and could not have reasonably been prevented.

Students must contact the instructor(s) as soon as possible, and normally no later than 24 hours after the submission deadline for course deliverables. If not satisfied with the instructor's decision, students can conduct an "informal appeal" to the Chair of the department within three (3) working days of an instructor's decision. We have created a webform specifically for appeals to the Chair, which can be found here: <https://carleton.ca/law/application-for-review-of-refusal-to-provide-academic-consideration/>. *Note: This form only applies to LAWS courses and is not the same as a formal appeal of grade.* More information about the academic consideration can be found [here](#).