

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2301B – Criminal Justice Systems
TERM:	Fall 2026
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 1001 and LAWS 1002
CLASS:	Day & ON-LINE – Blended synchronous & asynchronous Time: Synchronous class time: Mondays, 19:00 – 20:00
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Anita Grace
CONTACT:	Office Hrs Virtual (Zoom) by appointment / Location: Telephone: Email: anita.grace@carleton.ca
BRIGHTSPACE:	https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/450749

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

The institutional and social production of criminal law in Canada. Processes, personnel, and agencies. The role of discretion. The accused and the place of the victim. Issues in sentencing and punishment. Particular attention to racialization, Indigenous experiences, and discrimination in the operations of criminal law.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide you with an overview of the Canadian criminal justice system and an exploration of key areas of inquiry and analysis. The objective is to identify the various institutions and actors involved in the justice system, and the key legislation that governs their roles and responsibilities. Students will also learn to situate the justice system within its socio-legal context and to recognize the intersecting factors impacting criminalization.

The first part of this course will focus on key institutions and actors. The latter part of the course will develop critical analysis of the justice system by focusing on specific current issues.

Course material will be delivered on-line through **asynchronous lectures and course**

material and six **synchronous discussions** held during class hours (see schedule). Students will be expected to keep up with asynchronous lecture videos and course readings and attend scheduled synchronous classes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the key institutions involved in, and legislation governing, the Canadian criminal justice system;
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of various actors in the criminal justice system;
- Convey an understanding of the intersecting factors impacting the operation and interpretation of criminal justice law; and
- Critically analyse representations of criminalized individuals and criminal justice system actors.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All required readings will be made available on Ares or Brightspace. Some weeks will have audio or video content in addition to required readings (see Schedule below for weekly reading)

EVALUATION

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. Grades are displayed according to the University's grading scale (letter grades).

BONUS: Syllabus Quiz

September 25

+2%

Students can earn up to 2% bonus marks by completing a quiz in Brightspace about the course syllabus. The quiz is comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions about the course syllabus. Missed syllabus quiz cannot be made up after it closes on Sept 25.

Reading Quizzes

Weekly

15%

Reading is extremely important in this course and students are expected to complete weekly required readings each week. Quizzes in Brightspace on each week's reading will close Sunday at midnight before the start of the next week. Quizzes are timed (20 minutes). There are a total of 10 quizzes, 5 questions in each (mostly multiple choice, true/false). Each quiz is worth 1.5% of your final grade. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

Mid-term test	Oct 19	20%
On-line, open-book test will be open during the class hours of Week 6 (18:05 – 20:55). This quiz covers the content of Weeks 1-5 lectures and mandatory readings. It includes multiple choice, true/false, and short-answer questions.		
Critical response proposal	Nov 6	10%
Students will submit a brief proposal in preparation for their critical response paper on their chosen topic. Papers will be submitted in Brightspace. The proposal will include an outline of their final paper and a brief annotated bibliography of their sources. Evaluation, provided through a rubric, will be based on demonstration of understanding of the topic, source material, and course content.		
Critical response paper	Dec 4	25%
Students will continue to develop their engagement with their chosen topic through their final paper. Papers will be submitted in Brightspace. Evaluation will be based on demonstration of subject analysis and development of work, comprehension of source material, and engagement with course content.		
Final exam	TBD	30%
An On-line, open-book exam will be held during the formally scheduled final exam period. This exam covers the entire course content, including lectures and mandatory readings. The exam includes multiple choice, true/false, and short-answer questions. It must be completed in 3 hours		

Please note that tests and examinations in this course will use a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information at <https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring>. The minimum computing requirements for this service are listed on the SES website (<https://carleton.ca/ses/online-exams/e-proctoring/e-proctoring-course-outline-template>).

POLICY ON LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

Quizzes close on the date indicated and cannot be completed/submitted late.

Assignments that are submitted late are subject to late penalties:

- Critical response proposal: - 1 mark for every 24 hours after deadline
- Critical response paper: -1 mark for first 24 hours after deadline, -2 marks for every subsequent 24-hour period

The granting of extensions is determined by the instructor (not Teaching Assistants) who will confirm whether an extension is granted and the length of the extension. For requests

for extensions lasting less than 7 days, please complete the form at the following link and submit it to the instructor prior to the assignment due date:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/>

Extensions for longer than 7 days will normally not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where extensions lasting longer than 7 days are granted, the student will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension (up to a maximum of 14 days).

For more information regarding academic consideration for short-term incapacitation (illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond a student's control), please visit the following link: <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/#academic-consideration-for-short-term-incapacitation>

[Deferred final exams](#), which must be applied for at the Registrar's Office, are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course. Good standing means that a student has completed and received a passing grade on all course requirements (reading summaries and discussion responses, online quiz, and critical response paper). Students must apply for a deferral to the Registrar's Office no later than three (3) working days after the original final examination or the due date of final examination.

GRADE APPEALS

Grade appeal process follows what is laid out by Carleton University. Students who do not understand or agree with the feedback received on an assignment can contact the person who graded it (indicated on the rubric). They must provide a specific and detailed reason for a grade appeal, with reference to the relevant section of their paper and rubric. The person who marked the assignment will review the request and rubric. Most grade appeals can be resolved this way over email. Students who have consulted with their TA and still feel the need to discuss their mark further can email the instructor. If their concerns still have not been addressed, they may complete a Formal Appeal of Grade form through the Registrar's Office (<https://carleton.ca/registrar/appeal-of-grade/>).

****NEW** POLICY ON GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)**

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. A key focus of this course is developing 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. Students who submit work suspected of reliance on AI may be asked to explain their process and content in a meeting with the instructor.

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course

Students can access resources related to citing Generative AI on the [MacOdrum Library website](#).

****NEW** POLICY ON CLASSROOM RECORDING**

Unauthorized student recording of lectures or other academic activities (including advising sessions or office hours) is prohibited. Unauthorized recording is unethical and may also be a violation of University policy. Students requesting the use of assistive technology as an accommodation should contact the [Paul Menton Centre](#). Unauthorized use of class recordings – including distributing or posting them – is also prohibited. Under the University's [Copyright Policy](#), faculty own the copyright to instructional materials – including those resources created specifically for the purposes of instruction, such as lectures slides, notes, and recordings. Students cannot copy, reproduce, display, or distribute these materials or otherwise circulate these materials without the instructor's written permission. Students who engage in unauthorized recording, unauthorized use of a recording, or unauthorized distribution of instructional materials will be referred to the appropriate University office for follow-up.

SCHEDULE

- Week 1 Approaches to understanding the Canadian criminal justice system**
Watch: Week 1 lecture: Approaches
Read: Huey, L. 2011. Commodifying Canadian Criminology: Applied Criminology Programs and the Future of the Discipline. In A. Doyle & D. Moore (Eds.), *Critical Criminology in Canada*, p. 75–98. University of British Columbia Press. <https://doi.org/10.59962/9780774818360-005>
Complete: Reading Quiz 1, **due Sept 13**
Attend: Online class (Sept 14, 19:00 – 20:00) Introduction
- Week 2 Actors & Institutions: Police**
Watch: Week 2 lecture: Police
Read: Christmas, Robert. 2013. "Police Roles and the Costs of Justice." In *Canadian Policing in the 21st Century*, p. 15-42. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.
Read: Koziarski, Jacket and Laura Huey. 2021. "#Defund or #Re-Fund? Re-examining Bayley's blueprint for police reform." *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice* 45 (3): 269-284.

Complete: Reading Quiz 2, **due Sept 27**

Week 3 Actors & Institutions: Courts

Watch: Week 3 lecture: Courts

Read: Department of Justice. 2019. *Final Report on the Review of Canada's Criminal Justice System*, p. 1-16. Ottawa: Government of Canada.

Read: Karam, M., Lukassen, J., Miladinovic, Z., & Wallace, M. 2020.

Measuring efficiency in the Canadian adult criminal court system: Criminal court workload and case processing indicators. *Juristat*, 1–31.

Attend: Online class (Sep 28, 19:00 – 20:00)

Complete: Reading Quiz 3, **due Oct 4**

Week 4 Actors & Institutions: Sentencing & Corrections

Watch: Week 4 lecture: Sentencing & Corrections

Read: Reid, Andrew. 2020. "Sentencing Options and Sentencing Trends. In *Sentencing in Canada*, p. 26-47, edited by David Cole and Julian Roberts. Toronto: Irwin Law.

Watch: CBC documentary: *Prison Farms*

Complete: Reading Quiz 4, **due Oct 11**

Week 5 Release and Reentry

Watch: Week 5 lecture: Release & Reentry

Read: Tasca, Jacqueline et al. 2024. 'Locked Up, Locked Out: The revolving door of homelessness and Ontario's justice system' p. 1-28. Toronto: John Howard Society Ontario.

Read: Leverentz, Andrea. 2010. "Barriers to Reintegration." In *Rethinking Corrections: Rehabilitation, Reentry, and Reintegration*, p. 359-381, edited by Lior Gideon and Hung-En Sung. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications.

Complete: Reading Quiz 5, **due Oct 18**

Week 6 Midterm test – Oct 19, 18:05 – 22:55

Online, open-book test on course content (lectures and readings) covered in Weeks 1-5. Mix of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions.

Oct 26 - 30 Fall Break

Week 7 Crime Prevention & Victim Rights

Watch: Week 6 lecture: Crime Prevention & Victim Rights

Read: Monchalin, Lisa. 2022. "Why Not Crime Prevention? An Evidence-Based Perspective." *Criminologie* (Montréal), Special Issue, 1–27.

Read: Barrett, Joan. 2008. "Expanding Victims' Rights in the Charter Era and Beyond" *The Supreme Court Law Review: Osgoode's Annual Constitutional Cases Conference*

<https://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1127&context=sclr>

Complete: Reading Quiz 6, **due Nov 8**

Nov 6 **Critical Response Proposal due**

Week 8 **Race & Age**

Watch: Week 7 lecture: Race & Age

Read: Alain, Marc and Julie Desrosiers. 2016. "A Fairly Short History of Youth Criminal Justice in Canada." In *Implementing and Working with the Youth Criminal Justice Act across Canada*, p. 23-63, edited by Raymond Corrado, Marc Alain, and Susan Reid. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Read: Palmeter, Pamela. 2024. "Gendered Genocide: The Overincarceration of Indigenous Women and Girls." In *Unsettling Colonialism in the Canadian Criminal Justice System*, p. 185-200, edited by Vicki Chartrand and Josephine Savarese. Athabasca University Press.

Attend: Online class (Nov 9, 19:00 – 20:00)

Complete: Reading Quiz 7, **due Nov 15**

Week 9 **Criminal justice responses to poverty**

Watch: Week 9 lecture: Criminal justice and poverty

Read: O'Grady, B., Gaetz, S., & Buccieri, K. 2013. Tickets... and More Tickets: A Case Study of the Enforcement of the Ontario Safe Streets Act. *Canadian Public Policy*, 39(4), 541–558.
<https://doi.org/10.3138/CPP.39.4.541>

Read: Manno, Meenakshi. 2021. #StoptheSweeps: Ending Cyclical Displacement and Criminalized Poverty in Vancouver, p. 1-48. Vancouver: Pivot Legal Society.

Complete: Reading Quiz 8, **due Nov 22**

Week 10 **Criminal justice responses to mental illness and drug use**

Watch: Week 10 lecture: Criminal justice, mental illness, and drug use

Read: Koziarski, O'Connor & Frederick. 2020. Policing mental health: The composition and perceived challenges of Co-response Teams and Crisis Intervention Teams in the Canadian context. *Police Practice and Research* 22(1): 977-995.

Listen: Docket Podcast "Changing Minds on Decriminalization" June 22, 2022. Start at 12:39

Attend: Online class (Nov 23, 19:00 – 20:00) – Critical response paper

Complete: Reading Quiz 9, **due Nov 29**

Week 11 **Alternative models for criminal justice system**

Watch: Week 11 lecture: Alternatives

Read: Mallea, Paula and Catherine Latimer. 2017. *Beyond Incarceration: Safety and True Criminal Justice*. Toronto: Dundurn Press - Read Introduction, p. 21-34, Chapter 5, p. 154-175, and the Conclusion, p. 176-184.

Watch: Restorative Justice video from Nova Scotia / Dept of Justice

Complete: Reading Quiz 10, **due Dec 6**

Dec 4 **Critical Response Paper due**

Week 12 **Review**

Watch: Week 12 lecture: Review

Attend: Online class (**Dec 7, 19:00 – 20:00**) Review & final exam

Fall 2026 Sessional Dates and University Closures	
Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website: https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/	
September 9, 2026	Fall term begins.
September 22, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) for Fall courses.
September 30, 2026	Last day to withdraw from full fall courses and the fall portion of fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
October 12, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
October 26-30, 2026	Fall break. No classes.
November 15, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from full and late fall courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for December full fall, late fall, and fall/winter midterm examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
November 27, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full fall term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official December final examination period.
December 11, 2026	Fall term ends.
	Last day of fall classes.

	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
	Last day for take home examinations to be assigned.
December 9-10, 2026	No classes or examinations take place.
December 12-23, 2026	Final examinations in fall term courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held.
December 23, 2026	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

STATEMENTS ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. Students are not permitted to submit a piece of work that is substantially the same as one submitted for credit to another class. 'Substantially the same' means that the majority of the content, key arguments, and cited resources are the same.

Permissibility of group or collaborative work. Students are expected to complete all their course requirements independently.

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, 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.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor.

The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous [process for academic integrity allegations](#), including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of "F" for the course.

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/>

Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Crisis/Urgent Counselling Support: 613-520-6674 (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
- 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 connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- 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>

REQUESTS FOR 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).

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 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](#).