

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2302 B – Criminal Law
TERM:	Fall 2026
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 1001 and LAWS 1002
CLASS:	Day & Time: Tuesdays 18:05-20:55 Room: Please check Carleton Central for current class schedule Lectures will be conducted in-person once a week.
INSTRUCTOR:	Michael A. Smith
CONTACT:	Office Hrs: Office hours with the instructor and/or TA will be held by appointment. Appointments may take place in-person or via Zoom. Telephone: 613-230-5787 ext. 301 Email: michaelsmith@cunet.carleton.ca Teaching Assistant: ALIFKHAN@CMAIL.CARLETON.CA
BRIGHTSPACE:	To be added

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 justification, the *Canadian Criminal Code* and the role of the *Charter* in the criminal legal system. Lectures will be three hours long per week.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an extension of the theories and approaches that are dealt with in LAWS 2301. It is designed to provide a practical introduction to Criminal Law in Canada and to the institution, processes and rules. The goal is to highlight the elements of criminal offences while examining various legal defences and their effectiveness in the system. This course will focus on legal

jurisprudence and various sections of The Criminal Code of Canada. Students will be provided with an opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge to use into formal practice through a class assignment.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Successful students will achieve the basic understanding of criminal law within Canada. They will understand what occurs from the time of arrest to the completion of a trial. And more specifically, students will:

1. Achieve a basic understanding of criminal law within Canada, including foundational legal principles and terminology;
2. Understand the process and key stages of a criminal case – from arrest, bail hearings, disclosure, and pre-trial motions to trial and sentencing;
3. Identify and explain the roles and responsibilities of key actors in the criminal justice system (e.g., police, Crown, defence counsel, judges);
4. Analyze key legal concepts such as mens rea, actus reus, the presumption of innocence, and the burden of proof.
5. Develop familiarity with relevant provisions of the *Criminal Code* and the *Charter* as they apply to criminal proceedings;
6. Understand and critically evaluate how social factors (e.g., race, gender, socioeconomic status) can impact the criminal justice process;
7. Engage with real or hypothetical case studies to apply legal principles to practical scenarios;
8. Demonstrate introductory legal research skills, including how to locate and interpret case law and statutes relevant to criminal matters; and,
9. Communicate legal ideas clearly in written and oral form using appropriate terminology and structure.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Criminal Law in Canada: An Introduction to the Theoretical, Social and Legal Context 5th Edition – Authored by Ron Saunders and Rebecca Bromwich.

This book is available for purchase from the publisher's website for \$225.00 (soft bound book):
<https://store.thomsonreuters.ca/en-ca/products/criminal-law-ca-theoretical-social-legal-context-5-softbound-book-30835662>

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.

All components must be successfully completed to get a passing grade.

1. Monthly Quizzes = 30%
 - a. A total of 3 quizzes will make up a portion of the scores. Each quiz will assess the student's understanding of the specific chapter covered in the month leading up to the quiz.
 - b. They will be completed on Brightspace and be submitted October 6th, November 10th, December 11th of 2026
2. Final Examination = 30%
 - a. Will be held during the formal exam period (December 12-23, 2026)
3. Class Assignment = 30%
 - a. Court Observations. Students will be required to provide an opinion paper on if "Justice is being serviced" following their in-person court observations of criminal court cases at the Ottawa Courthouse.
 - b. Assignment due Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 6:05 p.m. EST
4. Participation = 10%
 - a. Will be based upon attendance, engagement, and a writing exercise.

Quizzes and final examination will be open book. Students must complete the monthly quizzes and the final examination by themselves. Collaboration is not permitted. The final exam will be comprised of multiple choice and short-answer questions. Students will be responsible for all the required readings and information/materials provided in the course including lectures.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

Any quiz submitted past the deadline will not be accepted nor graded.

Assignments submitted past the deadline date will be subject to a 10% per day late penalty up to a maximum of five (5) days. No assignments will be accepted beyond Sunday, November 29, 2026.

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/>.

Students should also indicate what efforts have been made to avoid the need for an extension. All requests for extensions must be made no less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled due date

of the assignment or submission.

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>

SCHEDULE

September 15	Topic	Course Introduction and Review of the Course Assignment
	Reading	Chapter 5 (Overview of Crime and Punishment) pg. 309-317
September 22	Topic	Crime, Sentencing and Punishment
	Reading	Chapter 5 Continued pg. 318-341
September 29	Topic	Crime, Sentencing and Punishment
	Reading	Chapter 5 continued (punishment) pg. 342-373
October 6	Topic	Criminal law and liability
	Reading	Chapter 6 section 6.1.1 - 6.1.2 pg. 377-421
October 13	Topic	Criminal law and liability
	Reading	Chapter 6 section 6.1.2 - 6.1.3 pg. 422-470
October 20	Topic	Criminal law and liability
	Reading	Chapter 6 section 6.1.3 - 6.2.3 pg. 471-527
FALL BREAK: OCT. 26-30, 2026		
NO CLASSES		
November 3	Topic	FALL BREAK – NO CLASSES Criminal Law Liability
	Reading	Chapter 6 – section 6.2.3 - 6.3 pg. 528-546
November 10	Topic	Defences
	Reading	Chapter 7 section 7.1 - 7.1.2 pg. 547-588
November 17	Topic	Defences

	Reading	Chapter 7 section 7.1.2 - 7.2.1 pg. 589-639
November 24 ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE @6:05pm	Topic	Defences – ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE AT 6:05 P.M.
	Reading	Chapter 7 section 7.2.1 – 7.3.2 pg. 640-693
December 1	Topic	Defences
	Reading	Chapter 7 section 7.3.2 - 7.4.4 pg. 694-759
December 8	Topic	Defences
	Reading	Chapter 7 section 7.3.2 - 7.4.4 pg. 760-788
December 11	LAST CLASS – EXAM REVIEW	

POLICY ON PERMISSIBILITY OF SUBMITTING SAME WORK MORE THAN ONCE, PERMISSIBILITY OF GROUP OR COLLABORATIVE WORK, AND PERMISSIBILITY OF USING GENERATIVE AI

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

- Students are strictly prohibited from submitting any work that has been previously submitted for academic credit in another course. Any such submission will result in an academic integrity violation, and the student will be referred to the university's academic integrity office for review. Re-using any portion of previous work, regardless of its extent, will be treated as a violation of academic integrity.

Cooperation or Collaboration

- Students are not permitted to cooperate or collaborate on any academic assignments unless explicitly stated by the instructor. Any unauthorized collaboration will result in an academic integrity violation and the student being referred to the academic integrity office. This policy applies to all tests, exams, and individual assignments. Proofreading by others is not allowed.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

- The use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, to produce any part of an assignment or test is strictly forbidden. Unauthorized use of AI in this course will be treated as a violation of academic integrity.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

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](#).