

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

SOCI 3170A
FALL 2024
SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION

Instructor: Dr. Hassan Diab

Office Hours: Mondays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm or by appointment @ A701 Loeb Building

Email: hassandiab@cunet.carleton.ca

Phone Number: 613-520-2600 ext. 1842

Course meets: Tuesdays 8:35 am – 11:25 am

Method of Delivery: In person

Pre-requisites: SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002, and third-year standing

Diversity Statement

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations of the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

Learning Outcomes:

This course will enable students to:

- Acquire advanced sociological analysis of the relationship between abuse of power and miscarriages of justice.

- Examine and evaluate various theoretical perspectives that help explain the conditions of creating cases of miscarriage of justice.
- Critically analyze studies related to the miscarriage of justice in different types of legal systems (inquisitorial and adversarial).
- Critically examine Canada's Extradition Law and its shortcomings.
- Strengthen oral and writing skills through active class discussions, debates, and presentations.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course explores from sociological perspectives the dynamic relationship between institutionalized legal power (police, court, surveillance, prison, etc.) and miscarriages of justice in society. The course puts central emphasis on miscarriages of justice in the context of Canadian extradition law, with close examination of a high-profile extradition case that highlights the pertinent issues. Students will tackle seemingly intractable cases of miscarriage of justice and propose solutions. Students will gain critical insight into how to apply sociological concepts and analyses to the legal and criminal justice systems. The role and impact of society's social groups and activists who fight for social justice will be examined.

This course will offer students a rare opportunity to acquire firsthand knowledge of what it's like to be in the shoes of a person wrongfully accused and imprisoned by the legal system.

Readings / Textbook:

1- Maidment, MaDonna. 2009. *When Justice is a Game: Unravelling Wrongful Convictions in Canada*. Halifax & Winnipeg, Canada: Fernwood Publishing. (Available as an E-Book)

2- MacFarlane, Bruce. 2006. "Convicting the Innocent: A Triple Failure of the Justice System." *Manitoba Law Journal* 31(3): 405-413. <http://netk.net.au/Canada/MacFarlane.pdf>

3- Visit <https://www.justiceforhassandiab.org> and familiarize yourself with the case study for this course.

4- Additional required and recommended readings are available through the Carleton University library (on reserve or online).

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Students are expected to be prepared for classes by reading assigned materials, attending all classes, participating in-class activities, and handing in assignments on time. This is a unique class as its instructor was a former "forced participant observer" in detention centers in Canada and France. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity by participating in

class debates and discussions to acquire firsthand knowledge of the behind-the-bars world as experienced for years by a sociologist.

The final grade (out of 100 points) will be distributed as follows:

1- Class Attendance and Participation: 10 points

Class attendance is critical and participation in class discussion is essential to assess students' reading, learning, and understanding of the related material. Attendance will be taken at the discretion of the instructor. Students are expected to have read the required readings before each class and to actively participate in class discussions and answer questions related to the assigned material. Students who do not participate lose automatically one point each class.

2- Mid-Term Exam: October 29, 2024 (essays, multiple choice questions, critiques of, or comments on, documentaries, etc.) 30 points

The mid-term exam will be held in class, will take 2 hours, and will include all material covered and assigned by October 29.

3- In-Class Group (or Individual) Presentation: (5+20)= 25 points

Students are expected to conduct in-class group (or individual) presentations on pre-approved topics. Students who decide to participate in social justice activities in the community can submit a weekly report on their work. Articles related to confronting/fighting miscarriages of justice are a good choice to start with. A student's grade will be assessed according to their individual (not collective) performance (such as preparing, posing helpful questions, grasping, and skillfully debating their material).

Students will be assigned to groups (if they have not formed their own) by the end of September 2024. **A two-page summary/plan of your presentation must be submitted in class by October 8, 2024** (worth 5 points). In their summary, students should outline their main points. **The in-class presentation** itself is worth 20 points.

A hard copy (in addition to an earlier virtual one) of your **presentation's PowerPoint slides** is due in class on the group's presentation date. **There is no need to submit a formal paper.**

Additional information on what to include in the presentation will be discussed in class.

Presentations will begin on Nov 5, 2024, and end on December 3, 2024.

4- Final Exam: December 9-21, 2024 (essays, multiple choice questions, critiques of, or comments on, articles, documentaries, etc.) 35 points

The Final exam (University will announce time and place) will take 2 hours. It will include **ALL** materials covered and assigned by December 3, 2024.

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course	DEF = Deferred	

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

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

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).

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 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*).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for October/November examinations is **October 1, 2024** and **November 15, 2024** for December examinations.

For Religious Obligations:

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. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-

[content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](#)

For Pregnancy:

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. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](#)

For 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: [www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](#)

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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

What are the Procedures?

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Assistance for Students:

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 and Career Development Services: <https://carleton.ca/career/>

Writing Services: <http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/>

Important Information:

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- 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.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton's Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university.
- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your [MyCarletonOne account](#) through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the [MyCarleton Portal](#).
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://students.carleton.ca/>.

FALL TERM 2024 – Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Activity
August 28, 2024	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full fall, early fall, and fall/winter courses.
August 30, 2024	Last day for receipt of applications from potential fall (November) graduates.
September 2, 2024	Statutory holiday. University closed.
September 3, 2024	Academic orientation (undergraduate and graduate students).
	Orientation for new Teaching Assistants.
	All new students are expected to be on campus. Class and laboratory preparations, departmental introductions for students, and other academic preparation activities will be held.
September 4, 2024	Fall term begins. Full fall, early fall, and fall/winter classes begin.
September 10, 2024	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early fall courses.
September 17, 2024	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full fall, late fall, and fall/winter courses.
	Last day to withdraw from early fall courses with a full fee adjustment.
	Graduate students who have not electronically submitted their final thesis copy to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs will not be eligible to graduate in fall 2024 and must register for the fall 2024 term.
September 20-22, 2024	Deferred Exam Period: Full Summer term final examinations; Late Summer term final examinations
September 30, 2024	Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
October 1, 2024	Last day for academic withdrawal from early fall courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for Oct/Nov final 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.

October 11, 2024	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in early fall term undergraduate courses, before the official Oct/Nov final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
	December examination schedule (fall term final and fall/winter mid-terms) available online.
October 14, 2024	Statutory holiday. University closed.
October 15, 2024	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the winter term from applicants whose documents originate from outside Canada or the United States.
October 18, 2024	Last day of early fall classes.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned in early fall courses, 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.
	Last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for early fall courses.
October 21, 2024	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late fall courses.
October 21-25, 2024	<p>Fall Break: No classes will take place. Students cannot be required to attend class or submit coursework from Sunday, October 20 to Sunday, October 27. The following exceptions may apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If it is necessary to hold a test after Friday, October 18 due to exceptional circumstances, it can only be scheduled on Saturday, October 19. This timing must be announced on the course outline that is distributed at the beginning of the term. • Final exams for Early Fall undergraduate courses may be held on October 26-27 and November 2-3.
October 26-27, November 2-3, 2024	Final examinations in early fall undergraduate courses will be held.

October 28, 2024	Late fall classes begin.
November 8, 2024	Last day to withdraw from late fall term courses with a full fee adjustment.
November 11, 2024	Remembrance Day is on Monday, November 11. As much as possible, course instructors are asked to allow for a moment of silence for personal reflection at 11 a.m. in accordance with Senate policy.
November 15, 2024	Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for December full fall and late fall examinations 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.
	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the winter term.
November 15-17, 2024	Deferred Exam Period: Early Fall term undergraduate final examinations
November 22, 2024	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 (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
November 29, 2024	Last day for graduate students to submit their supervisor-approved thesis, in examinable form to the department.
	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in late fall term undergraduate courses, before the official final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
November 30, 2024	Last day for receipt of applications from potential winter (February) graduates.
December 6, 2024	Fall term ends.
	Last day of full fall and late fall classes.

	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, 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.
December 9-21, 2024	Final examinations in Full Fall and Late Fall courses and mid-term examinations in Fall/Winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
December 21, 2024	All final take-home examinations are due on this day

Class Schedule and Assignments

Class 1 (September 10, 2024) – Introduction to the course

- Miscarriages of justice as a contemporary social problem
- Defining concepts
- Wrongful conviction in a historical perspective

Required Readings and Preparations:

- Maidment, MaDonna. 2009. "Unravelling the Official Story." Pp. 15-25 in *When Justice Is a Game: Unravelling Wrongful Convictions in Canada*. Halifax & Winnipeg, Canada: Fernwood Publishing.

Class 2 (September 17, 2024) – Wrongful Conviction in a Historical Perspective (Cont.)

- Finalizing student groups

Required Readings and Preparations:

- Maidment, MaDonna. 2009. "The Unofficial Story Behind Wrongful Convictions." Pp. 27-61 in *When Justice Is a Game: Unravelling Wrongful Convictions in Canada*. Halifax & Winnipeg, Canada: Fernwood Publishing.
- MacFarlane, Bruce. 2006. "Convicting the Innocent: A Triple Failure of the Justice System." *Manitoba Law Journal* 31(3): 405-413.
<http://netk.net.au/Canada/MacFarlane.pdf>

Class 3 (September 24, 2024) – Wrongful Conviction: A Conventional Rhetoric

Required Readings and Preparations:

- MacFarlane, Bruce. 2006. "Convicting the Innocent: A Triple Failure of the Justice System." *Manitoba Law Journal* 31(3): 434-480.
<http://netk.net.au/Canada/MacFarlane.pdf>

Class 4 (October 1, 2024) – Wrongful Conviction: The Unofficial Story

- Two-page summary of students' in-class presentations is due.

Required Readings and Preparations:

- Maidment, MaDonna. 2009. "Socio-Political and Legal Transformations." Pp. 107-117 in *When Justice Is a Game: Unravelling Wrongful Convictions in Canada*. Halifax & Winnipeg, Canada: Fernwood Publishing.
- Anderson, Kristin J. 2010. "They Must Be Guilty of Something: The Myth of Criminalization." Pp. 81-121 in *Benign Bigotry: The Psychology of Subtle Prejudice*. Cambridge, the United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.

Class 5 (October 8, 2024) – Surveillance, Entrapment, and "Revered Science" as Helpful Tools for Miscarriages of Justice

Required Readings and Preparations:

- Maidment, MaDonna. 2009. "Forensic Science Under the Microscope." Pp. 63-84 in *When Justice Is a Game: Unravelling Wrongful Convictions in Canada*. Halifax & Winnipeg, Canada: Fernwood Publishing. (from the textbook)
- Maidment, MaDonna. 2009. "Case Study of a Mr. Big Police Sting." Pp. 85-106 in *When Justice Is a Game: Unravelling Wrongful Convictions in Canada*. Halifax & Winnipeg, Canada: Fernwood Publishing.

Class 6 (October 15, 2024) – The Role of "We and the Others" in Contributing to Social Injustice

Recommended Readings and Preparations:

- Anderson, Kristin J. 2010. "Those People All Look Alike: The Myth of the Other." Pp. 22-80 in *Benign Bigotry: The Psychology of Subtle Prejudice*. Cambridge, the United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.

October 22, 2024: Fall Break – No Classes

Class 7 (October 29, 2024)– In-class Midterm Exam (2 hours)

Class 8 (November 5, 2024) – Canadian Extradition Law: An Official Recipe for Miscarriage of Justice

- First round of in-class presentation/s (one or more individuals/groups will present).
- Hard copy of the Power Points presentation should be submitted.

- Comparing and contrasting the French (inquisitorial or Bonapartian) legal system with the Anglo-Saxon (adversarial) legal system: What is acceptable here is illegal over there (and vice-versa).

Required Readings and Preparations:

- Botting, Gary. *Canadian Extradition Law, 6th Edition*. Published by LexisNexis Canada, 2023. Introduction (Pp. 1-29)
- What is wrong with the Canadian Extradition Law? You can find the answer in the above book and at the website <https://www.justiceforhassandiab.org>

Recommended Readings (very helpful to understand the French inquisitorial system):

- Hodgson, Jacqueline. 2005. "Introduction." Pp. 1-38 in *French Criminal Justice: A Comparative Account of the Investigation and Prosecution of Crime in France*. Portland, USA.: Hart Publishing.
- Hodgson, Jacqueline. 2005. "Defence Rights and the Role of the Defence Lawyer." Pp. 101-141 in *French Criminal Justice: A Comparative Account of the Investigation and Prosecution of Crime in France*. Portland, USA.: Hart Publishing.

Class 9 (November 12, 2024) – The Unique Extradition Case of Hassan Diab

- Second round of in-class presentation/s (one or more individuals/groups will present).
- A hard copy of the presentations should be submitted.

Required Readings and Preparations:

- "The Diab Affair: An Unfinished Story", by Michelle Weinroth (article will be posted online/sent to registered students).

Class 10 (November 19, 2024) – The Role and Responsibility of the Community to Fight Back: Social Justice in Action

- Third round of in-class presentation/s (one or more individuals/groups will present).
- A hard copy of the presentations should be submitted.

Required Readings and preparations: <https://www.justiceforhassandiab.org/>

- [Canada's extradition system needs major reform, experts say | CTV News](#)
- "Reforming Canada's Extradition System", Report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, June 2023.
 - https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2023/parl/xc66-1/XC66-1-1-441-13-eng.pdf (PDF File)
 - <https://www.ourcommons.ca/documentviewer/en/44-1/JUST/report-13> (ordinary text file)

Recommended Reading/s

- [The Problematically Low Threshold of Evidence in Canadian Extradition Law: An Inquiry into its Origins; and Repercussions in the Case of Hassan Diab](#), by Maeve McMahon, Manitoba Law Journal, V. 42, Issue 303-364, 2019.

Class 11: November 26, 2023 – The Mainstream Media: A Hazy Role or Hard to Tame?

- Fourth round of in-class presentation/s (one or more individuals/groups will present).
- Hard copy of the presentations should be submitted.
- Mainstream Media Coverage: Is it another Contributing Factor to Miscarriage of Justice?

Required Readings and Preparations:

- “Reforming Canada’s Extradition System”, Report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, June 2023.
 - https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2023/parl/xc66-1/XC66-1-1-441-13-eng.pdf (PDF File)
 - <https://www.ourcommons.ca/documentviewer/en/44-1/JUST/report-13> (ordinary text file)
- From reading <https://www.justiceforhassandiab.org>, be prepared to discuss the following points:
 - What are the ways and means that you believe one can employ to affect and cause a major shift in the conventional narrative of the mainstream media?
 - How can collective efforts of local communities (through social campaigns) help provide a meaningful and effective response to biased media coverage of wrongful accusations/convictions?

Class 12 (December 3, 2024) – Social Justice in Action: Achievements and Shortcomings.

- Fifth round of in-class presentation/s (one or more individuals/groups will present).
- Hard copy of the presentations should be submitted.
- Class Discussion: Lessons learned and conclusions
- Final Exam: General Revision

Required Readings and Preparations:

- The beginning of the end of the current “lousy” Extradition Law. “Reforming Canada’s extradition system”, by Dale Smith, 12 July, 2023. <https://nationalmagazine.ca/en-ca/articles/law/hot-topics-in-law/2023/reforming-canada-s-extradition-system>
- Holding the line (so far) in shielding the accused (from another potential extradition) and reaching the finish line in the JUST Committee Report No. 13. Finally, 20 (though not perfect) recommendations.

Good Luck!