

Introduction to the Criminal Justice System – CRIM 131

University Studies Program

Course Outline

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:	March 2002
OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE:	January 2023
COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE:	September 2028

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course involves a critical examination of the structure and operation of the Canadian criminal justice system that responds to crime and criminal behaviour: the police, courts and corrections. This course also examines the relationship between these agencies and the impacts and implications of the system. An emphasis is placed on experiential and interactive learning where students will engage with various individuals involved in the system. This course also includes an introduction to Indigenous justice models, community and restorative justice.

Program Information: This course is required for the Criminal and Social Justice Certificate and Diploma Programs. This course can also be used as an elective in other University Studies and Child and Youth Family Studies programs. Refer to the College program calendar for additional information.

Delivery: This course is delivered face-to-face/hybrid and/or online.

COTR Credits: 3

Hours for this course: 45 hours

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours:

Instructional Activity	Duration
Lecture Hours	45
Seminars / Tutorials	
Laboratory / Studio Hours	
Practicum / Field Experience Hours	
Other Contact Hours	
Total	45

Practicum Hours (if applicable):

Type of Practicum	Duration
On-the-job Experience	N/A
Formal Work Experience	N/A
Other	N/A
Total	

Course Outline Author or Contact:

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Signature

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

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Valid from: January 2023 – September 2028

Education Council Approval Date

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT:**Prerequisites:** None**Flexible Assessment (FA):**

Credit can be awarded for this course through FA

☒ Yes☐ No

Learners may request formal recognition for flexible assessment at the College of the Rockies through one or more of the following processes: External Evaluation, Worksite Assessment, Demonstration, Standardized Test, Self-assessment, Interview, Products/Portfolio, Challenge Exam. Contact an Education Advisor for more information.

Transfer Credit: For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>.

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

Prior Course Number: N/A

Textbooks and Required Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Gorkoff, K (2022). *Introduction to Criminal Justice*. 1st edition. Pearson.
<https://www.pearson.com/en-ca/subject-catalog/p/introduction-to-criminal-justice/P200000002650/9780137683819>
(E-Book access only)

Zehr, H. (2015). *The Little Book of Restorative Justice: Revised and updated*. : Skyhorse Publishing Company.

Additional readings provided online.

****Please ensure you have the correct editions as earlier editions of the texts cannot be used.**

Equipment:

- Regular online access to COTROnline
- High Speed Internet access
- Adobe Reader
- Word Processor

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator
<http://go.cotr.bc.ca/tuition/tCalc.asp> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- describe and explain the Canadian Criminal Justice System: the agencies and players involved, the functions, and the processes;
 - identify various decision makers and decision-making points throughout the criminal justice system;
 - articulate, and critically examine the purpose and operations of the system;
 - locate and interpret Juristat and other crime and criminal justice system related statistics;
 - recall and apply the sentencing principles;
 - critically examine the limitations of the criminal justice system;
 - explain sound solutions to reform the criminal justice system;
 - recall the principles and values of Restorative Justice;
 - identify and articulate Indigenous, restorative and community concepts and systems of justice;
 - explain the over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system and recognize how to respond with cultural appropriateness;
 - critically examine and explain the over-representations of minorities and marginalized peoples in the justice system;
 - recall the history of youth justice in Canada and the current laws and systems in place; and
 - articulate the differences and individual/collective needs of accused/offenders.
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COURSE TOPICS:

- Introduction to the Criminal Justice System (An overview, history of development))
- Challenges in Criminal Justice
- Impacts of trauma and identifying social justice needs
- Policing
- Criminal Courts: Structure, decision making, processes
- Sentencing: Purposes and Principles, Options
- Corrections: Structures, Institutions (prisons)
- Community Corrections & Alternatives to Confinement
- Release and Re-entry to Community
- Youth Justice
- Indigenous Justice
- Restorative & Community Justice

See instructor's Course Information Sheet for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT:

Assignments	% Of Total Grade
Participation and Engagement in Discussions and Class Activities	5%
Small Assignments	10%
Journals	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Small activities and assignments will include participation in field visits, tours, guest speaker and court visits. Students are expected to attend at least one criminal court proceeding during the course of the semester.

In order to receive a passing grade in the course, students must complete all elements in the course evaluation and assessment.

Please see the instructor's Course Information Sheet for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as breakdown of evaluation, penalties for late assignments, and the use of electronic aids.

EXAM POLICY:

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of "0" for the exam.

COURSE GRADE:

Course grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Mark (Percent)	≥ 90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	< 50

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

See www.cotr.bc.ca/policies for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

COURSE CHANGES:

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will endeavour to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.