



# Introduction to the Criminal Justice System – CRIM 131

## University Studies Program

### Course Outline

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: March 2002  
OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2017  
COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE: September 2022

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#### GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course involves a critical examination of the structure and operation of the 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.

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

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**Delivery:** This course is delivered face-to-face and 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	
<b>Total</b>	45

#### Practicum Hours (if applicable):

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

**Course Outline Author or Contact:**

Avery Hulbert, BA Hon, MA

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Signature

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**APPROVAL SIGNATURES:**

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Department Head Signature

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Dean Signature

EDCO

Valid from: January 2017 – September 2022

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Education Council Approval Date

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**COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT:**

**Prerequisites:** None

**Corequisites:** 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

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## 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:

Griffiths, C. (2019). *Canadian Criminal Justice System: A Primer*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education.

Zehr, H. (2002). *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books.

\*\*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.

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## 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 as well as the processes;
- identify various decision makers and decision making points throughout the criminal justice system;
- articulate and understand the differences between the daily and practical operations and the intended or policy stated operations;
- 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;
- articulate the differences between the criminal justice system and restorative, community and Aboriginal concepts of justice;
- explain the over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the criminal justice systems and recognize how we can prevent and respond with culturally appropriateness;
- 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.

This course should help students

- use written and oral communication skills effectively, employing methods appropriate to message and context;
- think clearly and critically, fusing experience, knowledge and reasoning into considered judgment; and

- identify, interpret, and solve problems, effectively implementing and evaluating proposed strategies.

**COURSE TOPICS:**

- Introduction: the Criminal Justice System (An overview)
- Challenges in Criminal Justice
- Policing: structure, powers & decision making, operations
- 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	15%
Small Assignments/Journals	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	<u>30%</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.

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### **COURSE GRADE:**

Course grades are assigned as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
<b>Mark (Percent)</b>	≥ 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.

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### **ACADEMIC POLICIES:**

See [www.cotr.bc.ca/policies](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/policies) for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

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### **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.