



CRIM-131 – Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2022

Course Outline Review Date: 2028-09-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

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.

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.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Social Sciences

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	

Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

None

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

Textbook 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 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 cultural 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.
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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 Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Participation and Engagement in Discussions and Class Activities	5%
Small Assignments	10%
Journals	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Pass requirements: All assignments and evaluations must be completed.

Evaluation Notes: A grade of “D” grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Evaluation Notes Comments:

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.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
 - Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
 - Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
 - Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
 - Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty
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Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.