



**EFFECTIVE: MAY 2002**

**CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**

A: Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL** Date: **JANUARY 2002**  
 B: Department/ **CRIMINOLOGY** New  Revision   
 Program Area: **HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES** Course   
 If Revision, Section(s) **F,M,N,O,P,Q,R**  
 Revised:  
 Date Last Revised: **SEPTEMBER 1985**

C: **CRIM 260** D: **CRIMINAL LAW** E: **3**

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits												
<b>F:</b> Calendar Description: This course is designed to give students an understanding of Canadian Criminal Law. The course will begin with a review of the sources of criminal law and how the criminal law operates within the structure of the justice system. Students will be introduced to the role of Criminal law in society through a discussion of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and recent cases. This will be followed by a thorough examination of the principles of substantive Canadian criminal law. The substantive criminal law will be explained and examined by the use of the case method. General principles of law will be discussed in the context of specific cases decided by the courts. Students will be encouraged to consider the law critically, from both an academic and practical perspective.														
<b>G:</b> Allocation of Contact Hours to Types of Instruction/Learning Settings  Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:  <b>Lecture</b>  Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)  <b>Lecture: 4 hrs. per week / semester</b>  Number of Weeks per Semester: <b>14</b>	<b>H:</b> Course Prerequisites:  <b>CRIM 160</b>	<b>I:</b> Course Corequisites:  <b>NONE</b>												
	<b>J:</b> Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:  <b>NONE</b>													
	<b>K:</b> Maximum Class Size:  <b>35</b>													
	<b>L: PLEASE INDICATE:</b>													
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SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS ([www.bccat.bc.ca](http://www.bccat.bc.ca))

**M: Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Identify the constitutional and legal sources of Criminal Law and conduct and use legal research.
2. Identify the relationship of Criminal Law to other regulatory laws.
3. Describe the classification of Criminal Law in relationship to other classifications of law.
4. Describe the criminal trial process.
5. Discuss the relationship of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Criminal Law.
6. Describe the relationship between morality, societal values and Criminal Law.
7. Identify the elements of crime and discuss each of these elements as described in statute and case law.
8. Discuss various methods of criminal participation and the elements of each as outlined in statute and case law.
9. Identify legal defences to crime and describe the legal criteria of these defences.
10. Identify current issues in Canadian Criminal Law and related Constitutional laws.
11. Discuss the role of the Supreme Court of Canada (S.C.C.) in Criminal Law.

**N: Course Content:**

1. Introduction to Canadian Criminal Law
  - a) Sources of Criminal Law in Canada
    - S Statutes and case law
    - S Legal research and citation
    - S Case briefing
  - b) Exclusive Federal Power to Enact Criminal Law
  - c) Quasi-Criminal Law, Regulatory Law
  - d) Review of Legal Classifications (public law, private law, substantive law, procedural law).
  - e) Criminal Trial Process
    - S Proof of Crime
    - S Burden of Proof
    - S Standard of Proof
  - f) Impact of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms on Criminal Law.
2. The Changing Nature of Law and Morality
  - a) Abortion
  - b) Obscenity
  - c) Euthanasia
3. Determining Criminal Liability
  - a) Actus Reus (conduct, circumstances, consequences, causation, automatism)
  - b) Mens Rea (subjective and objective mens rea, direct and indirect intention, relationship to motive, recklessness, wilful blindness).
4. Regulatory Offences
  - a) Absolute and Strict Liability
5. Modes of Participation in Crime
  - a) Parties to Crime
  - b) Accessory After the Fact
  - c) Inchoate Offences (counselling, attempted crime, conspiracy)

**Course Content Cont'd.**

- 6. Defences to Crime
  - a) Mistake of Fact
  - b) Mistake of Law
  - c) Intoxication
  - d) Necessity
  - e) Duress
  - f) Provocation
  - g) Self-Defence
  - h) Consent
  - i) Mental Disorder

**O: Methods of Instruction**

This course will employ a number of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives which will include some of the following:

- 1. Lectures
- 2. Seminar presentations
- 3. Audio-visual materials
- 4. Group discussion
- 5. Research papers
- 6. Case briefing assignments

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students**

Verdun-Jones, S. (2001) Criminal Law in Canada: Cases, Questions and the Code (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Harcourt, Brace and Co.

Verdun-Jones, S. (1999) Canadian Criminal Cases, Selected Highlights. Harcourt, Brace and Co.

The Criminal Code of Canada (latest edition).

Texts will be updated as needed.

**Q: Means of Assessment**

Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. Evaluations will be based on course objectives and may include some of the following: exams, oral presentation, research project/term paper, case brief assignment, legal research lab. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester.

SAMPLE EVALUATION

Library Lab	5%
Case Brief Assignment	15%
Research Paper	20%
Mid-term Exam	25%

Subject and Course Number

Final Exam

35%  
Total: 100%

**R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR**

No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Course Designer(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Education Council/Curriculum Committee Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean/Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar