

CCJP*6100 Governing Criminal Justice

Credit Weighting: .50**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** None.**Restrictions:** restricted to CCJP MA students.**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Kate Puddister**Email:** kpuddist@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** 510 MacKinnon**GENERAL DETAILS**

This course analyzes criminal justice policy and governance of the criminal justice system from applied and theoretical perspectives. Particular attention is paid to the interplay between criminal justice policy and management and the larger political process. Key questions in the course include: how political science theories help to explain policy developments in criminal justice; why independence and accountability are particularly important in the criminal justice system; and whether policymaking in criminal justice can be fully rational (how does “politics” enter into decision-making and is this appropriate or not)? This course will discuss the larger, normative debates surrounding criminal justice policy and the policy process itself. Students will explore the criminal justice policy process from the perspective of each of the primary actors and will consider how other jurisdictions address similar policy problems and issues.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Articulate the functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g., police, courts, and corrections), the Canadian legal system, the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as well as the broader social, political, and economic world.
2. Evaluate how political science theories and approaches help explain crime, control, and policy developments in criminal justice.
3. Analyze primary materials concerning criminal justice policy, including judicial decisions, legislation, and the Criminal Code of Canada.
4. Evaluate criminal justice programs and policies, develop policy alternatives, and participate in social and political debates.
5. Examine diverse perspectives about local and national criminal justice issues and how they might be reconciled.
6. Conduct social science, legal, and/or public policy research, and present those findings in a clear, accessible manner in written and oral forms.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Participation: 10%

Analysis papers (2): 30%

Discussion leader: 10%

Paper proposal: 15%

Policy project presentation: 5%

Policy project paper: 30%

REQUIRED READING

All reading available electronically.