DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

CALENDAR INFORMATION

The course provides an overview of the policy process and outcomes of the Canadian criminal justice system. Particular emphasis is placed on examining, using various public policy and public management perspectives, the practices and interactions of governmental agencies within the system, such as police agencies and boards, departments of justice, public safety, corrections and parole agencies, courts and the judiciary.

Credit Weighting: 0.5

Pre-/Co-Requisites: 1 of POLS*2350, POLS*2250, POLS*2300

Restrictions: This is a Priority Access Course

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Stacey Colliver

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Office Location: N/A; office hours to be held virtually

GENERAL DETAILS

This course is divided into 12 units, with each unit representing one week of the course. Units include the following topics: The criminal justice system, criminal code, and media; Public policy and criminal justice policy; The constitution, executive and federalism; Police governance, policing and politics; Police accountability and oversight, Mr. Big; Prosecution and defence; Judiciary and courts; Sentencing and sentencing policy; Corrections and conditional release; Victims ' rights; Indigenous peoples and the criminal justice system; Criminal justice reform

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Identify the primary agencies and actors the Canadian criminal justice system and assess how they relate to one another;
2. Analyze and evaluate the operation of the criminal justice system for strengths and weaknesses in terms of accountability, transparency, independence, and oversight;
3. Explain and examine the policy-making process and relationship between politics and public policy;
4. Recognize the challenges and unique nature of criminal justice policy;and
5. Conduct Basic Legal And Public Policy Research.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is conducted entirely online and consists of units (to guide students through the week ' s learning), readings, videos, and activities. There are no in-class lectures or seminars for this course. This course runs on a 12-week schedule.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

In this course, you are assessed via:
- 2 written papers
a. LEGISinfo paper - which asks you to investigate and analyze the policymaking process
b. Sentencing paper - which asks you to evaluate, compare and contrast Canadian sentencing decisions
The written assignments will help to enhance your research and writing skills. You will also be able to complete basic legal and public policy research through the two central writing assignments.
- participation in an online discussion board assignment, which occurs over two weeks
- one online midterm
- one online final exam

REQUIRED READING

There is no required textbook for this class. Readings consist of relevant journal and media articles, as well as one film. Required readings will be made available on ARES.

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