

POLIS*4130 Adv. Lecture in Criminal Justice Policy & Law (Sentencing and Penal Policy)

Credit Weighting: .50 credits**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** POLS*3300; 12.50 cre**Restrictions:** POLS*4110**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Kate Puddister**Email:** kpuddist@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** MacKinnon 510**GENERAL DETAILS**

The sentencing of the criminally convicted is one of the most scrutinized, but least understood, aspects of the criminal justice system. Beyond simply punishing an offender for committing a criminal offence, sentencing brings together public policy choices set by elected officials, the discretion of judges, Charter protected legal rights, public perception and scrutiny by the media. This course will consider these themes along with the related issues of penal policy and law, parole and victims' rights. Sentencing theory, current practices and trends in sentencing policy will also be considered. The central focus of this course will be Canada, however frequent comparisons will be made to the United States and occasionally to other jurisdictions when appropriate.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- Analyze and evaluate the relationship between law and politics in Canada, and its effect on criminal justice policy
- Explain and assess the role the Constitution, courts, policymakers, and the public play in shaping sentencing and penal policy
- Recognize and define principles and theories of sentencing
- Conduct basic legal and public policy research, including reading and analyzing judicial decisions

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Midterm 25%

Reaction Paper 15%

Group Presentation 20%

Presentation Peer Review 5%

Take-home Final Exam 35%

REQUIRED READING

All readings available electronically.

Department of Political Science
5th Floor MacKinnon - 50 Stone Road East
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1
T 519-824-4120 x 56505
polsmail@uoguelph.ca
uoguelph.ca/polisci

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