

**POLS*3300:
GOVERNING CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**University of Guelph
Department of Political Science
Fall 2019**

Instructor: Professor Kate Puddister, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: TBA

Lectures: M/W/F
1:30 to 2:20

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course provides an overview of the policy processes and outcomes of the Canadian criminal justice system. To achieve this aim, students will be introduced to the primary agencies in the criminal justice policy community and learn how these policy actors relate to one another, using various theoretical and analytical perspectives from the fields of political science, public policy and public management. In particular this course will examine the police, ministries of justice and public safety, the legal system, sentencing and the correctional system. Current events and topical issues in criminal justice will be used to facilitate the learning process. While the focus is on the Canadian criminal justice system, some comparisons will be made with other countries when appropriate.

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

- Identify the primary agencies and actors in the Canadian criminal justice system and understand how they relate to one another
- Analyze and evaluate the operation of the criminal justice system for strengths and weaknesses in terms of accountability, transparency, independence, and oversight
- Explain the policymaking process and the relationship between politics and public policy
- Recognize the challenges and unique nature of criminal justice policy
- Conduct basic legal and public policy research

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

	Due Date	Submission	Weight
Online Quizzes	#1: Friday, September 27 #2: Friday, October 18 #3: Friday, November 8	Courselink	15%
LEGISinfo assignment	October 11	Courselink dropbox	15%
Ministerial Briefing Memo	November 15	Courselink dropbox	35%
Final Exam	TBA	On campus, room TBA	35%

REQUIRED TEXT: All readings available electronically through courselink or U of G library course reserves.