

DALHOUSIE LAW SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS

2009 – 2010
Laws 1001Y 03/04

Criminal Justice: The Individual and the State: Cases and Materials (Small Group - Section C)

Professor Aylward

Office: Room 321
Office Hours: 3:00-4:00 Thursdays (or meeting by Appointment)
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Class Hours: **Tuesdays: 10:30-12:00 (Room 309)**
Thursdays: 10:30-12:00 (Room 309)

A. DESCRIPTION

This is a compulsory first year course for 6 credits, taught three hours per week in both terms of the Law School's academic year (September-May). In this course, the relationships between the community and individuals are considered in the context of Canadian criminal law. The legal rights provisions of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, selected topics in criminal procedure and sentencing, and the principles of the substantive criminal law will be the main focus of the class. The latter concentrates on elements of offences, justifications, excuses, non-exculpatory defences, inchoate crimes and secondary liability for offences (Law School Calendar).

B. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Students will develop ability to "spot issues" and develop the critical thinking skills of analysing and synthesizing. Students will develop these skills through problem solving using a factual situation and a specific *Criminal Code* Offence. Students will develop a critical perspective on the major questions about the Criminal law, such as its scope, and its efficacy as a system of justice. This course will provide a multicultural education which will help students to re-examine their perceptions of justice, particularly as it relates to race, ethnicity and gender.

C. COURSE TOPICS

See common table of contents to all three volumes of materials

D. THE COURSE PLAN / SYLLABUS:

The year will take us through what you will find as the common table of contents to all three volumes of the material entitled *Criminal Justice: the Individual and the State-Cases and Materials* (2009-2010 Edition) prepared by Professors Aylward, Archibald, Martin and Williams. Read this Table of Contents carefully as it provides the intellectual framework for the course in schematic form.

E. PRESCRIBED MATERIALS:

(a) **Required Materials:** These materials, along with your personal notes, can be taken into the examination room with you.

----- Archibald, Aylward, Martin, Williams: *Criminal Justice: The Individual and the State-Cases and Materials* (2008-2009) Dalhousie University, Halifax - Available at the University Bookstore. **(OBTAIN VOL.1, *The Constitutional, Procedural and Policy Framework for the Criminal Law*, immediately).**

----- *Carswell Pocket Criminal Code* (2009), Thompson Publishing Toronto - Available at the University Bookstore **(Obtain immediately)**

----- Handouts - from time to time during the academic year it will be announced in class or by posted notice that supplementary "handouts" are to be obtained from the "Materials Room" on the ground floor of the Weldon Law Building. These will usually be recently decided cases, new statutory provisions, reform proposals, background material, etc.

(b) **Recommended Materials:**

These materials will provide helpful background reading BUT are NOT permitted in the examination room. They are on reserve at the Sir James Dunn Law Library, or can be purchased at the University Bookstore. (Purchases can be deferred until later in the term.)

Don Stuart, *Canadian Criminal Law: A Treatise* (3rd Ed.). Carswell/Thomson Publishing, Toronto, (2001) (in University Bookstore) (on reserve)

Alan Mewett and Morris Manning: *Criminal Law* (3rd ed.), Butterworth, Toronto, 1994 (on reserve).

Kent Roach: *Essentials of Canadian Criminal Law*, (3rd ed.), Irwin Law, Inc., 2004 (in University Bookstore).

Kent Roach: *Due Process and Victim's Rights*, U of T. Press, Toronto, (1999) (on reserve).

Annotated Criminal Codes: You should be aware that there are a number of annotated criminal codes widely used by criminal law practitioners and are on "Reserve" in the Sir James Dunn Law Library. "Martin's and Tremear's" are available in the University Bookstore as well. "Crankshaw's" *Annotated Criminal Code*, in loose-leaf format and of multiple volumes, is probably the most useful starting point, after text books, for Canadian criminal law research.

NOTE: ANNOTATED CRIMINAL CODES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BE TAKEN INTO THE EXAMINATION.

F. **TEACHING METHOD:**

Teaching is by way of lecture, discussion of assigned reading materials, and by discussion of periodic review problems. Students are urged to read the assigned materials in advance and to attend classes regularly (attendance for small group(s) will be taken). Failure to read the materials in advance will seriously impair the student's understanding of the course. The learning is cumulative, so don't get behind in readings!

G. **EVALUATION:**

In Section C the "Criminal Justice" course is taught in a small group rather than to the full section. Evaluation will therefore be based on four components.

(a) **Exams - 50%**

There will be a Christmas exam and a final exam, which between them will count for 50% of your final mark. This evaluation is by "open book" examination in the sense that personal notes and "required materials" as described above may be taken into the examination room. Examinations normally consist of essay and problem-style examination questions, although short answer and/or true/false questions are sometimes employed.

(b) **First Term Examination:**

To be written in early December in accordance with the timetable issued by the Director of Studies (Elizabeth Hughes), The Christmas exam is "failsafe", which means that it may count as 30% of the mark for the course if it is to your advantage to do so.

(c) **Final Examination:**

To be written in May in accordance with the timetable to be issued by the director of studies. If your final exam mark is higher than your Christmas exam, your final exam grade will make up the entire 50%. If your Christmas exam grade is higher than your final exam grade, the Christmas mark will count for 30% of the exam portion (15% of your total mark

(d) **Fall Written Assignment - 15%**

To be written in the Fall Term. This written assignment will consist of a hypothetical problem or an essay type question and will be a "Take Home" assignment (times to be determined).

(e) **Moot - 25%**

Every first year student is required to take part in a moot (a mock appeal) as part of the small group class. This assignment will take place during the winter term. We will work out the timing of the Moots in class early in the year.

(f) **Participation - 10%**

You are expected to do the readings for each week, and to come to class prepared to discuss them. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and will form part of your class participation mark.

In accordance with Law School requirements, the marks for this course are expected to correspond to a Bell Curve. More details on the curve can be found in the 2009-10 Law School Calendar.

(H) **GRADING SCHEME:**

The grading scheme and numerical and letter grade equivalents used at the LL.B. level in the Faculty of Law (which differ from those used elsewhere in the University) are found in the 2009-2010 Calendar for the Faculty of Law. They are as follows:

Letter Grade	Equivalent
A+	85-100
A	80-84
A-	78-79
B+	75-77
B	70-74
B-	68-69
C+	65-67
C	60-64
D+	55-59
D	50-54
F	0-49

The overall marks in the course may be affected by the Law Faculty's "Permissible Grade Distribution" also described in the Law School Calendar.

The permissible grade distribution for first year courses is as follows:

A	10-20%
B	40-60%
A+B	60-75%
C	15-25%
D	0-15%
F	0-5%

ACCOMMODATION

Professor Pothier is the faculty advisor to students with disabilities. Students with disabilities wishing to discuss in-class accommodation or study assistance needs should see Professor Pothier. Students wishing to request accommodation regarding exam writing or other aspects of evaluation must make the request in writing to the Studies Committee and should see Associate Dean Deturbide or Assistant Dean Hughes for more information. Material for the Studies Committee should be given to Tiffany Coolen-Jewers, administrative assistant to the Associate Dean.

