



COURSE OUTLINE - Winter 2026

SO3270(A3 & VC): Criminal Justice Administration in Canada - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Rashid Begg	PHONE:	780-539-2021
VENUE:	D308	M&W	14:30 – 15:50
OFFICE:	C203	E-MAIL:	mbegg@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE	By appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Topics will include the evolution and current theoretical and ideological basis of social policy and practice in the justice system; analysis of the operational practices of the criminal justice system: the law, police, court, correctional (rehabilitation and diversion); and special additional focus on the problems the system has in dealing with young and native persons.

PREREQUISITE(S):

Completed the following:
SO2250 - Criminology (3)

COREQUISITE(S):

None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Criminal Justice in Canada: A Reader (2022 – Sixth Edition) by Julian V. Roberts and Michelle G. Grossman (published by Emond).

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus & Synchronous

1. Explain the structure and organization of the Canadian criminal justice system, including the roles of police, courts, corrections, and other agencies.
2. Describe the key legislation and policies governing criminal justice administration in Canada, such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Corrections and Conditional Release Act.
3. Identify and analyze the major trends and issues in Canadian criminal justice, including Indigenous overrepresentation, mental health, and restorative justice.
4. Analyze the impact of social and economic factors on crime rates and criminal justice outcomes in Canada.
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches to crime prevention and reduction, such as community policing and rehabilitation programs.
6. Critique the role of power and privilege in shaping the Canadian criminal justice system, including issues of systemic racism and bias.
7. Apply knowledge of Canadian criminal justice policies and procedures to real-world scenarios and case studies.
8. Develop effective communication and problem-solving skills to address complex issues in criminal justice administration.
9. Apply ethical principles and theories to guide decision-making in criminal justice contexts.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Total Point	Weight
Reflection Papers (5 x 1marks)	5 pts	5%
Research Essay	25 pts	25%
Midterm Exam 1	30 pts	30%
Final Exam	40 pts	40%
Total	100 pts	100%



Reflection Papers

Students will complete 5 short individual assignments (The *Charter*, Policing, The Court System, Sentencing, and Community Corrections) based on the content for each section (1-2 pages, double-spaced). Each application assigned will be graded based on the quality of application of content, demonstration of understanding, and ability to critically engage with the content discussed in the unit. No citations or outside sources are necessary for these assignments. More specific instructions for these assignments will be given in class on the date on which they are assigned. Students must complete all 5 assignments for complete marks.

Research Essay

Write an 8–10-page research essay (double-spaced, excluding title page and references) on a specific aspect of the Canadian criminal justice system. Choose a specific topic related to the Canadian criminal justice system, such as: Indigenous peoples and the justice system, Racial profiling and policing, Sentencing reforms and Bill C-10, Mental health and the justice system, Youth justice and the YCJA. A rubric will be posted and a short lecture on essay writing will be covered in class.

Midterm and Final Exam

The Midterm and Final Exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions with choice. There will be a brief review in class before the midterm and final exam respectively. These will test your knowledge and application of concepts, theories, and perspectives on the course material (textbook chapters, classroom lectures, discussions, and video clips). The final exam is non-cumulative.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit IF your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date	Topic	Readings and Due Dates
Week1: Jan 5	Meet and Greet, How to write a Research Essay, Criminal Justice in Canada: An Overview	Chapters 1 and 3
Week2: Jan 12	Criminal Justice in Canada: An Overview	Chapters 4 and 24
Week3: Jan 19	The <i>Charter</i> and Criminal Justice	Chapter 2, Reflection 1 due
Week4: Jan 26	Policing: History, Structure, and Organization	Chapter 5
Week 5: Feb 2	Who's Policing the Police? Police Oversight and Accountability	Chapter 13, Reflection 2 due
Week6: Feb 9	The Court System Midterm Exam 1 (10th Feb)	Reflection 3 due
Week7: Feb 16	Reading Week	
Week8: Feb 23	The Crown Attorney, the Defense Counsel, and the Judge	Chapters 6,7, and 8
Week9: Mar 2	The Criminal Court Process	Chapter 14
Week10: Feb 9	Sentencing	Reflection 4 due
Week11: Mar 16	Institutional Corrections	Chapters 11, and 27 Research Essay Due
Week12: Mar 23	Community Corrections	Chapters 10, 26, and 28, Reflection 5 due
Week13: Mar 30	Conditional Release and Offender Populations	Chapters 15, 16, 23, and 23

Week 14: Apr 6	Youth Justice and Domestic Violence	Chapters 18, 21, and 25
Week 15: April 13	Revision – Last day of class	

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Jan 5 – Classes Start
 Jan 15 – Last day to add/drop.
 Feb 16 – Family Day
 Feb 17 – 21 – Winter Break
 March 31 – Last Day to Withdraw
 April 3 – Good Friday
 April 13 – Last day of classes
 April 16 – 23 – Final Exam Period

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

VC Student Requirements

Technology	A stable internet connection sufficient to meet the class requirements. Webcam, microphone, speakers.
Class Participation	Camera on and showing your face during class. An appropriate screen name.
Test/Exam Supervision These are requirements essential to maintaining the academic integrity of the course. The dual camera option is available to VC students only	Dual camera setup. During the exams you must have a webcam showing your face and a camera behind you showing your work surface with your computer. If you are unable to meet the dual camera setup requirement VC students can pay to write the exams at an independent proctor location approved by me. Note: the proctor cannot be a friend/family member, etc. If neither of the above two options work for you, another option is to come to the



NWP campus in person and write the exams with the other students during the scheduled time.

Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.

Your grades are posted to myClass, so please be sure you are tracking them there. If you believe there is an error, please let your instructor know.

Submission, Late Policies, & Issues of Intellectual Concern:

- Equally important to learn and apply professional communication skills, such as writing proper e-mail messages, it is very important to learn to meet deadlines. Complete your assignments on time!
- Late assignments received will be deducted 5% for every late day (including weekends!).
- Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0 unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me well in advance of any due date.
- In cases where submitted work exhibits concerning patterns or raises questions for the instructor about its creation and the student's intellectual effort involved, students may be required to submit to an oral examination regarding the work at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to participate in the oral examination will result in an assigned grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, the instructor still has concerns about the work, the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked below) may be applied.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.