



**Criminal Law – CRIM 230**  
Criminal Justice Diploma/University Studies Program

**Course Outline**

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: April 2003  
 OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2009  
 COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE: May 2013

**GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to help develop an understanding of the nature, purpose, scope, sources and basic principles of Canadian criminal law. Topics include: the study of fundamental legal concepts such as *mens rea*, *actus reus* and regulatory offences; modes of participation in crime; and defences to criminal charges.

This course includes a short (approx. 20 hours) community practicum. This experience enables students to apply their understanding of criminal law to situations encountered in the day-to-day activities of the criminal courts.

**Program Information:** This course is required for the Criminal Justice Diploma. This course can also be used as an elective in other University Studies programs. Refer to the College program guide for additional information.

**Delivery:** This course is delivered face-to-face

**COTR Credits:** 3

**Hours for this course:** 45 hours

**Typical Structure of Instructional Hours:**

Instructional Activity	Duration
Lecture Hours	45
Seminars / Tutorials	
Laboratory / Studio Hours	
Practicum / Field Experience Hours	
Other Contact Hours	
<b>Total</b>	45

**Practicum Hours (if applicable):**

Type of Practicum	Duration
On-the-job Experience	
Formal Work Experience	
Other	20
<b>Total</b>	20

**Course Outline Author or Contact:**

Carol Pakkala, B.A., LL.B., P.I.Dip.

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Signature

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**APPROVAL SIGNATURES:**

Department Head  
Sharon Richardson  
E-mail: [richardson@cotr.bc.ca](mailto:richardson@cotr.bc.ca)

Dean of Instruction  
Dr. Laura Cooper  
E-mail: [LCooper@cotr.bc.ca](mailto:LCooper@cotr.bc.ca)

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Department Head Signature

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Dean of Instruction Signature

EDCO

Valid from: September 2008 – August 2013

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Education Council Approval Date

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**COURSE PRE-REQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT**

**Prerequisites:** CRIM 135

**Corequisites:** None

**Prior Learning Assessment (PLA):**

Credit can be awarded for this course through PLA  Yes  No

Learners may request formal recognition for prior learning at the College of the Rockies through one or more of the following processes: External Evaluation, Worksite Assessment, Demonstration, Standardized Test, Self-assessment, Interview, Products/Portfolio, Challenge Exam. Contact an Education Advisor for more information.

**Transfer Credit:** For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

**Prior Course Number:** N/A

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## Textbooks and Required Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Verdun-Jones, S.N. (2007), *Criminal Law in Canada: Cases. Questions & the Code*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Toronto: Nelson, Thomson

Verdun-Jones, S.N. (2007), *Canadian Criminal Cases: Selected Highlights*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.. Toronto: Nelson, Thomson

*Please see instructor's Course Information Sheet for a complete list of the current required textbooks.*

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## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

University Studies at the College of the Rockies allow students to complete their first two years of study towards a university degree. College students gain academic knowledge and skills in their chosen subjects. They also cover general problem-solving and critical thinking skills. The combination can empower them to participate as educated citizens in the economic, political, and cultural life of their communities.

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- explain the nature, purpose, scope, sources and basic principles of criminal law
- relate historical roots of criminal law to modern criminal justice applications
- apply fundamental legal concepts (e.g. *mens rea*, negligence, strict liability) to case studies in criminal law
- critically examine the legislative policies expressed in the Criminal Code and the elements of a criminal offence

This course should help you:

- use written and oral communication skills effectively, employing methods appropriate to message and context.
  - think clearly and critically, fusing experience, knowledge and reasoning into considered judgment.
  - identify, interpret, and solve problems, effectively implementing and evaluating proposed strategies.
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## COURSE TOPICS:

- Introduction
- Elements of a Criminal Offence: *actus reus*, *mens rea*; strict and absolute liability.
- Modes of Participation in Crime.
- Defences to Criminal Charges: mental disorder; mistake of fact and mistake of law; intoxication; necessity; duress; provocation; self-defence and defence of property; and consent.
- Practicum: this 20 hour assignment may be spread over a number of weeks during the semester.

See instructor's Course Information Sheet for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

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## ESSENTIAL SKILLS DEVELOPED IN THIS COURSE:

Students can expect to develop the following skills in this course:

### Skills for Busy Students

- Practice strategies to succeed at exams and tests

### Research Skills

- Using the internet to locate information; evaluate information from internet sources
  - Understand what constitutes *plagiarism* in academic writing
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## EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Assignments	% Of total Grade
1. Two objective tests	50%
2. Practicum experience oral/presentation	10%
3. Practicum experience written report	20%
4. Class participation, including discussion groups and class presentations	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

Practicum hours must be completed by the assigned date (and evidenced in a practicum journal) or students will fail the course.

Please see the instructor's Course Information Sheet for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as breakdown of evaluation, penalties for late assignments, and the use of electronic aids.

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## EXAM POLICY

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of "0" for the exam.

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## COURSE GRADE

Course grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Mark (Percent)	≥ 90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	< 50

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

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## ACADEMIC POLICIES

See [www.cotr.bc.ca/policies](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/policies) for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

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## COURSE CHANGES:

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment, and marketing needs. The instructor will endeavour to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.