



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

September 1992

REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

September 2026

COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval):

December 2031

Course outline form version: 28/10/2022

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: CRIM 210	Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)												
Course Full Title: Youth Crime and the Youth Justice System in Canada													
Course Short Title: Youth Crime & Youth Justice Sys													
Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences	Department (or program if no department): CRIM												
Calendar Description: <p>Provides an analysis of the nature, prevalence, characteristics, and consequences of youth crime in Canada. Provides an overview of the historical development of Canada's juvenile justice and child protection systems, and reviews current political, social, legal, and criminological issues associated with youth crime in Canada.</p>													
Prerequisites (or NONE):	None. Note: As of January 2027, prerequisites will increase to 9 university-level credits.												
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	NONE												
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	NONE												
Antirequisite Courses (Cannot be taken for additional credit.) Former course code/number: NONE Cross-listed with: NONE Equivalent course(s): NONE <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>	Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Annually Maximum enrolment (for information only): 36												
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1"><tr><td>Lecture/seminar</td><td>45</td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td>Total hours</td><td>45</td></tr></table>		Lecture/seminar	45									Total hours	45
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Total hours	45												
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes													
Department approval	Date of meeting: November 13, 2024												
Faculty Council approval	Date of meeting: October 10, 2025												
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	Date of meeting: December 19, 2025												

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Articulate a working knowledge of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.
2. Describe the history of Canada's juvenile justice system.
3. Explain the differences between youth justice legislation and child protection legislation.
4. Discuss the prevalence and nature of youth crime in Canada.
5. Analyze the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in police, court, and corrections data.
6. Apply theoretical explanations of youth crime.
7. Describe policies and practices to decolonize the youth justice system and reduce the criminalization of Indigenous, racialized, and marginalized youth.
8. Assess critically the strengths and weaknesses of Canada's youth justice system.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting (Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)

Quizzes/tests:	50%	Assignments:	50%	%
	%		%	%

Details:

Assignments may include term paper, critical analysis thought papers, infographics, presentations, in-class writing assignments, and self-assessments.

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)

Lectures, discussions, and guest speaker presentations.

Texts and Resource Materials (Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Gorkoff et al.	Youth Justice: A Canadian Overview	2024
2. Indigenous knowledge	Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada	Calls to Action	2015
3. Textbook	Reid, S., & Bromwich, R.	Youth and the Law, 5th Edition, Emond	2024
4. Article	Cesaroni, C., Grol, C., & Fredericks, K.	Overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in Canada's criminal justice system: Perspectives of Indigenous young people. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology, 52(1), 111-128.	2019
5. Indigenous knowledge	Starblanket, T.	Suffer the little children: Genocide, Indigenous Nations and the Canadian state	2018

Required Additional Supplies and Materials (Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)

Course Content and Topics

- Historical views on youth delinquency
- Canadian youth justice legislation – from the Juvenile Delinquents Act to the Young Offenders Act.
- Youth crime rates in Canada; media and youth crime
- Theories of youth crime
- Indigenous youth
- Impacts of colonization and intergenerational transmission of trauma
- Initiatives to reduce the criminalization of Indigenous youth
- Female youth
- Mental health and substance use
- Racialized youth
- The Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)
- The YCJA: Police and Crown
- YCJA: Courts and sentencing
- YCJA: Corrections
- Restorative justice