Syllabus for History 3227
Canadian Criminal Law

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Wednesdays 1:35 to 4:25
Office Hours
Tuesdays 1:00 to 2:00
Wednesdays 12:00 to 1:00
Fridays 1:00 to 2:30
494-xxxx (Office) 422-5175 (Home)

Assignments and Evaluation

Written and Oral Presentation of your analysis of an aspect of Celebrity Criminals and Crime 15%
Discussion of your Essay Topic and Proposed Sources with me and submission of our agreement 5%
Essay of 3500 to 4000 words due November 20th 30%
Participation in Seminars 20%
Take home Test of 1100 to 1300 words, distributed November 27th and due December 5th 30%

Class Readings: These will be available on-line through our OWL site. They are also available through Dalhousie’s on-line library resources. If for some reason your work station is unable to access a particular reading through OWL, please use the library on-line resources.

Lecture Outlines, together with additional material distributed during lectures, will be posted on OWL.

Our OWL Site: This will be crucial in keeping you up to date with any necessary changes or helpful additions to course material. Please check it regularly. Also, please let me know as soon as possible about difficulties you are encountering in getting access to our site. Thanks.

Written and Oral Presentation of your analysis of an aspect of Celebrity Crime. We will confirm the details for this assignment in class September 11th. I will help you choose your topic. Your presentation will fall on October 23rd, October 30th or November 6th, depending on your topic.

Seminar Participation: Please remember that attendance at seminars is assumed. You will be graded on your preparation of the readings and your participation during discussions. To help demonstrate your understanding of the readings, you will have the opportunity to submit short answers to questions, beginning the week of September 18th, to a maximum of six sets of answers. Each set will be worth 2 points. Please submit your answers at the beginning of the seminar during which they are to be discussed. Please do not email them to me; I will want to have your answers for use during discussion, should the need arise. You will be able to submit one set of questions for a week in which you were unable to attend class.

Questions for general discussion will also be available on our BLS as we move from week to week. Please remember that your contribution to general discussions will also go towards your Seminar Participation grade.

Final Take Home Test: To be distributed November 27th and due December 5th at 4:00 pm in my metal mailbox at the front of the Marion McCain Building. The Test will be based on Readings, Lectures, Handouts, Discussions, and Films from throughout the term. Please do not submit the electronic version of your Test. I will need the hard copy.
Discussion of your Essay and Sources: Please meet with me in person to discuss your topic and sources. Thanks.

Essay: You will need to use a minimum of 6 sources directly on your chosen topic in order to meet the minimum requirements for this assignment. Suggestions to help you begin your hunt for a topic and source material will be posted on our OWL site. Detailed information concerning format and style is available in the Style Guide posted on the Departmental Website. Additional information concerning style expectations for this class will also be posted. For now, please note the importance of choosing your topic in consultation with me. Please ensure that you meet with me before investing your time in a topic. Hopefully we can make your Essay Topic dovetail with only Presentation, but that may not be possible. Thanks.

Student Accommodation Policy: Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain Request for Accommodation – Form A.

Policy on Academic Integrity: All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations. In brief, to quote from the policy, “academic integrity means that we are honest and accurate in creating and communicating all academic products. Acknowledgement of other people’s work must be done in a way that does not leave the reader in any doubt as to whose work it is. Academic integrity means trustworthy conduct such as not cheating on examinations and not misrepresenting information.” Please note that as a matter of fairness to students who do their own work, I will check for plagiarism, and that by University regulations I am required to report suspected offences. Indicate your sources, don’t pass off the work of others as your own, and see me if you have any questions.

Late Penalties: In fairness to all students, a late penalty of one-third of a letter grade will be assessed if an Assignment is between one and three days late; two-thirds of a letter grade if an Assignment is between four and six days late, etc. Extensions will be granted for documented medical or personal emergencies. The penalties are relatively modest, but real nonetheless.

Grades: The grading scheme follows the Department’s guidelines: http://history.dal.ca/Student%20Resources/

Protection of Privacy: To protect others’ privacy, students may not do voice or video recordings of any activity that occurs within the classroom.

Electronic Devises: During class time please refrain from using electronic devices in ways that might be disruptive or disrespectful to others in class. Please refrain from texting, emailing, or similar activities.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Sept 11th Introduction

Sept 18th The Body as Evidence


Sept 25th  Truth Serum and Lie Detectors


Oct 2nd  Child Abuse


Oct 9th  Rape to Sexual Assault

John Swainger and Backhouse, ed., People and Place: Historical Influences on Legal Culture (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2003), chapter 5.


Oct 16th  Women Who Kill and the Battered Wife Syndrome


Oct 23rd  Celebrity Criminals, Part I: Mass Murderers and Serial Killers

“Ripperology.”


Oct 30th  Celebrity Criminals, Part II: Organized Crime


Nov 6th  Celebrity Criminals, Part III: Corporate Crime

I will choose an appropriate reading once we decide on your topics.

Nov 13th  Conclusions Concerning Celebrity Criminals

Nov 20th  Corporal Punishment and Capital Punishment


Nov 27th  Incarceration


Media coverage of Kingston Penitentiary’s final decades

Dec 3rd  Catch-up