

SOSC/CRIM 4664 6.0
The Politics of Canadian Policing in a Global Context
Course Outline Fall/Winter 2020

Course Instructor: Professor James Sheptycki

Technical Requirements for taking this course

Students will need a computer with a webcam and microphone, and/or a smart device with these features. Engaging with this course on a smart device is sub-optimal since a great deal of reading and research, as well as course communication will take place through digital communication. A professional quality laptop or desktop computer will provide the best tools for engaging with this course. To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as [Speedtest](#), that can be run.

Several modes of communication will be used in this course by which students will interact with the Professor who is leading the course, the course materials, as well as with one another. Please review this course outline thoroughly in order to ensure you are familiar with how the course will proceed.

Since one mode of communication used for this course is a ‘virtual classroom’ provided by Zoom, students should note the following.

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources and help:

- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
- [Computing for Students Website](#)
- [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

Organization of the Course

This course will be both synchronous and asynchronous. The synchronous element will be the ‘virtual classroom’, the asynchronous element will be the course website platform. Although the course is scheduled to meet at particular times and days of the week (Fridays at 11:30 am local Toronto time, during term time unless by other arrangement), this course

will allow students to work independently with the course material. Much like an online course, students can learn in their own time, but there is the added advantage of scheduled meetings in the ‘virtual classroom’ where course progress can be monitored and student progress appropriately supported.

Course Communication:

The course will proceed using three modes of communication. The primary one will be email. Students should monitor their email regularly for course updates. Students should expect to receive attachments by email in Word, pdf, and other formats. Students will submit course work for assessment as email attachments. All submitted work should be in Microsoft Word. The course website is the second mode of communication. The site will be used to disseminate information, lecture material and course readings not otherwise obtained by students. The third mode of communication will be in a virtual classroom. (see above, *Technical Requirements*). Students will receive invitations to attend Zoom class meetings via email. Email is therefore the primary mode of communication used in this course.

Course Webpage: <https://thereluctantcriminologist.wordpress.com/>

Course Description: The course explores the politics of contemporary Canadian policing in the context of the history of modern governance. It explores the police role in society and interrogates policing in terms of fairness, inequality, discrimination and social justice. It further explores the relationship between policing, media, law, politics and social order, emphasizing the local effects of the global politics of policing. The course contains four parts: Theory and Research; History; Contemporary Police Practice and the Police Imaginary; Law and Politics. The first asks ‘who are the police?’ and ‘what is policing?’ The second explores the history of modern policing from prior to the French Revolution until today including policing in Europe, Britain and the United States and the spread of the police idea globally via colonialism, imperialism, and mimesis. The third explores social research on 21st century Canadian policing practice, focusing on the police role in relation to social justice; the pluralization of policing and variations in cop culture; and media and technological effects on policing. It examines how social research has revealed the practices of policing as a fundamental aspect of social order in Canada. The fourth part explores the relationship between police and the law, paying attention to democratic and legal accountability, given the complex inter-relations between the local and the global. As a whole, the course grapples with the problem of how police power can be made accountable to the general well-being, given that the context is a global one of competing sovereignties and a plural legal order.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Written communication skills: students will undertake a series of written exercises intended to provide practice to improve writing skills. Through the presentation of ideas and arguments in written form, students will acquire enhanced writing skills. Special feedback forms have been designed to help students focus on this aspect of their work.

Scholarly research skills: students will undertake a series of exercises intended to help them develop some academic library research skills. Through undertaking practical research tasks, students will gain enhanced abilities to undertake library research.

Knowledge Content: students will be directed to read from a carefully chosen bibliography concerning the politics of Canadian policing in a global context. Through engagement with fundamental texts in this domain of the field of criminology, students will gain enhanced knowledge.

By the end of this course students will be able to: 1) Articulate diverse theoretical perspectives relating to the politics of policing in Canada; 2) Formulate a critical review of academic literature relating to the politics of policing, policy and practice; 3) Advance an argument about the politics of policing in Canada by reference to diverse media representations; 4) Identify different social science methodologies and evaluate the related evidence that arise from academic research on police policy and practice; 5) Demonstrate a knowledge of the academic literature concerning the politics of Canadian policing in light of the global context in which it takes place.

Course Text Books: Greg Marquis (2016) *The Vigilant Eye: Policing Canada from 1867 to 9/11* (Ocean Vista, Nova Scotia, Fernwood Publishing) and Benjamin Bowling, Robert Reiner, and James Sheptycki (2019) *The Politics of the Police* 5th edition, (Oxford: Oxford University Press

Course Policies:

1. **Virtual Classroom Attendance** – Students will receive invitations to join meetings in the virtual classroom, usually with specific instructions ahead of the meeting time. Students are expected to attend at the scheduled time, unless special circumstances prevent them from so doing.
2. **Email policy** – students will engage in correspondence about this course with the professor and other students via email. It is highly recommended that students use their official York student email account since they will be sharing their contact details with fellow students. Students are expected to check their email regularly (at peak times during the semester daily) for updates. Assignments will be submitted as email attachments on the appropriate dates and times.
3. **Submission of assignments** – Students will be carefully moved through the course material and it is essential that work is submitted on time. Penalty for late submission is 10% per day.
4. **Academic Conduct** – Students are learning about scholarship and necessarily rely on the work of previous scholars. That is why it is important that the sources of ideas, wording or data obtained from others should be disclosed in properly acknowledged citations, with quotation marks where appropriate, and full bibliographic references. Using the work of others without acknowledgement is plagiarism. According to the York University guidelines on academic honesty, plagiarism is ‘the misappropriation of the work of another by representing another person’s ideas, writing or other intellectual property as one’s own. This includes the presentation of all or part of another person’s work as something one has written, paraphrasing another person’s ideas, writing or other intellectual property as one’s own. This includes the presentation of all or part of another person’s work as something one has written, paraphrasing another’s writing without proper acknowledgement, or representing another’s artistic or technical work or creation as one’s own. Any use of the work of others, whether published, unpublished or posted electronically, attributed or anonymous, must include proper acknowledgement’. It is also an offence to submit one’s own work (eg. a research paper) for credit on more than one occasion. Any instance of academic dishonesty will be reported to the appropriate University authority. For more information on how to demonstrate academic integrity, please visit the following website: http://www.yorku.ca/spark/academic_integrity/index.html
5. **Grades** – Students’ work will be graded according to the standard scale used in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (see below). Students will be given letter grades assigned a nominal percentage value for the purposes of calculating grades (see below). Final grades will be made available through the Student Information System (SIS).
6. **Accessibility** – All students are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to achieve excellence, and the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to perform at their best. For more information about this policy, please refer to these guidelines and procedures: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

7. **Requests for regrading** – In certain specified instances, students can submit re-written work for reconsideration and re-marking. Students can request that an assignment be reconsidered by submitting a case in writing along with the original assignment for reconsideration. Reassessed grades may go up, or down, or remain the same. Students also have the option of submitting all of their work for grade re-appraisal at the end of the year. This is a formal procedure administered by the Department of Social Science and is independent of the Course Director. Students are advised to keep all of their assessed work in a file in case they decide to apply for a formal grade reappraisal.
8. **Intellectual Property** – All course materials are for the exclusive use of the instructor and students. Students on this course may not publish, sell, or otherwise distribute any course material. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course, or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. *Copying any material for distribution (e.g. uploading to a commercial third-party website or online sharing of course material with people outside of the course) may lead to a charge of misconduct under York's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the Senate Policy on [Academic Honesty](#). In addition, you may face legal consequences for any violation of copyright law.*

Grade Scale

Grade	Grade Point	Per Cent Range	Description
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent
B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good
C+	5	65-69	Competent
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	1	(marginally below 50%)	Marginally Failing
F	0	(below 50%)	Failing

A+ Exceptional: Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skills or great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the course requirements. For the purposes of calculating grades, A+ will be considered to be 90%.

A Excellent: Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a high degree of skills and/or some elements of originality in satisfying the course requirements. For the purposes of calculating grades, A will be considered to be 80%.

B+ Very Good: Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a fairly high degree of skills and/or some elements of originality in satisfying the course requirements. For the purposes of calculating grades, B+ will be considered to be 75%.

B Good: Good level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the course requirements, For the purposes of calculating grades, B will be considered to be 70%.

C+ Competent: Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the course requirements. For the purposes of calculating grades, C+ will be considered to be 65%.

C Fairly Competent: Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with some skill in using them to satisfy the course requirements. For the purposes of calculating grades, C will be considered to be 60%.

D+ Passing: Slightly better than minimal knowledge of required concepts and/or techniques together with some ability to use them in satisfying the course requirements. For the purposes for calculating grades, D+ will be considered to be 55%.

D Barely passing: Minimum knowledge of concepts and/or techniques needed to satisfy the course requirements. For the purposes of calculating grades, D will be considered to be 50%.

E Marginally Failing. For the purposes of calculating grades E will be considered to be 45%.

F Failing For the purposes of calculating grades, F will be considered 0%.

Course Requirements (Evaluation) – Grades for this course will be based on the following assessed work:

Type of assessed work	Percentage value	Date
Evaluation 1	20%	Module One, due sometime during the week beginning Oct. 5 th
Evaluation 2	20%	Module Two, due: sometime during the week beginning Nov. 23 rd
Evaluation 3	20%	Module Three, due: TBA
Final Paper	40%	Module Four, due: TBA

Further details about the course are provided on the course webpage:
<https://thereluctantcriminologist.wordpress.com/>

