

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science POLI-2311 FA and CRIM-2311 FA

Criminal Law

Kevin G. Cleghorn, B.A., LL.B, LL.M, AccFM (OAFM), LUF, LSM Fall, 2026
Of the Bars of Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan Tuesdays, 7 -10 pm
Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science RB-2042
kcleghor@lakeheadu.ca
Office: RB 2050; Office Hours to be provided (if any)

Course Outline

- An overview of criminal law in Canada, theory and procedure, including the political issues and controversies surrounding it.
- Lectures will deal with the following topics:
 - Criminal law and social policy
 - Criminal procedure
 - Criminal law and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
 - The role of the Crown Attorney
 - The role of the defence counsel
 - Lawyers' Professional Responsibility
 - Evidentiary issues and Defences

Required Textbook

Criminal Law in Canada, 8th Edition, David MacAlister and Simon N. Verdun-Jones
(available at Lakehead University book store)-**\$110 for print version or \$74 for e-book**

Other resources to be provided.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Mid-term Examination (take home-October 21-25)	worth	40% (Mandatory)
Essay (submitted by email by October 6 at 6:00 pm)	worth	20% (Optional)
Final Examination (Multiple choice on December 1) optional essay is not submitted) (Mandatory)	worth	40% (or 60% if

The mid-term examination is a take home exam consisting of short answer and essay type questions that you will return by email (sent to students on October 21, 2026 at 9:00 am; to be returned by students on October 25, 2026 at 6:00 pm). The final examination (one

and one half hours in length) is a multiple choice examination, closed book and will occur in the regular classroom on December 1 at 7:00 pm. **The mid-term examination and the final examination are both mandatory. The essay submission is optional, and will serve to reduce the weight of the final examination for your over-all grade if you submit the essay no later than the deadline date of October 6, 2026.**

The final examination will include questions from the entire term and will be based on all lectures, all power point slides, all assigned readings and all assigned text book chapters.

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities and/or medical conditions to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please contact Student Accessibility Services <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca> (SC0003, 343-8047 or sas@lakeheadu.ca)

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Supplementary Course Outline

Fall, 2026

- September 8 Lecture 1: Introduction
Required reading: *Criminal Law in Canada*, Chapter 1
- September 15 Lecture 2: Sources of Canadian Criminal Law/ Actus Reus Elements
Required reading: *Criminal Law in Canada*, Chapter 2
- September 22 Lecture 3: Classification of Offences and Trial Jurisdiction/ Mental Elements- Subjective Liability
Required reading: *Criminal Law in Canada*, Chapter 4
- September 29 Lecture 4: Disclosure/ Mental Elements-Objective Liability
Required reading: *Criminal Law in Canada*, Chapter 5
- October 6 Lecture 5: Professional Responsibility/ Regulatory Offences
Required reading: *Criminal Law in Canada*, Chapter 6
Essay Due-October 6 at 6:00 pm sent to kcleghor@lakeheadu.ca
- October 13 **NO CLASS-Study Week**
- October 20 Lecture 6: The Preliminary Inquiry/Guest Speaker
Midterm Examination-Delivered to You by Email on October 21 at 9:00 a.m. – to be returned by October 25 at 6:00 pm to kcleghor@lakeheadu.ca
- October 27 Lecture 7: Witnesses/ Mental Impairment and Criminal Responsibility
Required reading: *Criminal Law in Canada*, Chapter 8

- November 3 Lecture 8: The Trial/ Mistake of Fact, Consent and Mistake of Law as Defences
Required reading: *Criminal Law in Canada*, Chapter 9
- November 10 Lecture 9: Sentencing/ Provocation and Intoxication as Defences
Required reading: *Criminal Law in Canada*, Chapter 10
- November 17 Lecture 10: The Youth Criminal Justice Act/ Necessity and Duress
Required reading: *Criminal Law in Canada*, Chapter 11
- November 24 Guest speakers/examination review
- December 1 Final Examination-Multiple Choice, in class
- December 8 Movie Night (To Be Announced)

The above is subject to change due to unexpected circumstances.. Additional required readings, if any, will be handed out in class or forwarded by e-mail,

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