

2311- CRIMINAL LAW- ESSAY OPTION-WINTER, 2023

Prepare a 5 page minimum, 10 page maximum, typewritten, double-spaced essay, using 12 point font, on one of the following topics:

(1) “Punishment should fit the crime. Murder should result in the death penalty. A sexual offence should result in surgical removal of the sex organ in question.” Provide your opinion on how punishment should be dealt with in our law so that it serves as an effective deterrent to criminal activity.

(2) The Government of Canada has imposed mandatory minimum sentences for some criminal offences. Discuss the concept of mandatory minimum sentences and what, if any, deterrent value it has had in other countries or in Canada. Discuss the challenges, societal and/or legal and/or political, of mandatory minimum sentences. Offer your opinion on the advantages and disadvantages of mandatory minimum sentences in our criminal law.

(3) “Sentencing of offenders should be culturally sensitive. Appropriate sentences could result in reducing the number of repeat offenders.” Discuss this proposition and consider the manner of sentencing/punishment in other cultures and societies, currently or historically or both.

(4) The Charter of Rights and Freedoms sets out the extent of our rights and freedoms. Discuss whether rights and freedoms are more restricted by virtue of having a written charter. In your answer, consider other countries, their constitutional history and their historical experiences.

(5) “The Youth Criminal Justice Act has been an abject failure in terms of deterring youth crime.” Discuss whether you agree or disagree with this proposition. In your answer, consider alternatives to dealing with youth crime from other cultures and/or countries.

(6) Select a topic of your choosing on approval of the instructor.

Your essay should include citations and a complete bibliography. It is worth 30% of your final mark and is due no later than February 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (send it by email to kcleghor@lakeheadu.ca). **The essay is optional but will count toward your final grade once it is handed in.** To obtain a good mark, you must not use merely internet sources- journal articles or

texts are the legitimate research sources that must be utilized. BE AWARE OF THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM LENGTHS FOR THE ESSAY. You may use whichever citation format in your own discretion.

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