2311- CRIMINAL LAW- ESSAY OPTION-2013

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

(1) "Assisted suicide is a complex, highly emotional issue. Write about the history of assisted suicide in Canadian criminal law. Review the court cases that have dealt with the issue and discuss their significance. Offer your opinion on how assisted suicide should be dealt with in our law, if at all."

(2) "The Government of Canada is imposing more mandatory minimum sentences. Discuss the concept of mandatory minimum sentences and what, if any, deterrent value it has had in other countries. 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."

Your essay should include citations and a complete bibliography. It is worth 30% of your final mark and is due no later than October 8, 2013. 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.