

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2023-2024 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION SUMMARY (PCIS)¹

COURSE	LAW 343 The US Criminal Justice System
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Joel Feinman
TERM OFFERED	Fall 2023
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES	None

OBJECTIVES AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the philosophy, history, and real-world practice of criminal justice in the United States. Students will learn about constitutional rights, the progression of criminal cases, the confluence of criminal justice and race, gender, and poverty, and how the U.S. criminal justice system impacts victims, defendants, families, communities, and lawyers. Students will learn about the relationship between courts and the purpose and use of laws which govern due process. The course will review the history of the U.S. war on drugs and explore the racial-economic political project underpinning U.S. mass incarceration. The course will also discuss the power and central role of elected officials, and especially elected local prosecutors, in creating and perpetuating the U.S. carceral state.

METHODOLOGY

This course will be taught in a mixed format of lecture and discussion. Class participation and robust discussion will be essential for students wanting to maximize their learning.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

1. Attendance and discussion – 20%
2. Presentation – 20%
3. Research, Writing and Analysis demonstrated in several reflection papers – 60%

Students may not write their Major Research Paper in this course

November 2023

¹ The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is **subject to change**. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, the Manager of Academic Administration and Student Services (lawmaass@uvic.ca).