BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is meant to provide a comprehensive treatment of the social realities and issues faced by Aboriginal peoples in the Canadian criminal justice system. A large number of topics will be covered with a view towards exploring the problems faced by Aboriginal peoples in the justice system, the search for positive solutions to those problems, and problems/issues that have been identified with those solutions. Classes will consist of a mix of lecturing and talking circle pedagogy.

A study of law as it relates to Indigenous social problems frequently delves into controversial issues and tragic stories and events. It is to be expected that different people will inevitably come to different answers to the questions. On that note, a priority (and a requirement of University policy) is the maintenance of a safe space in the classroom. Students are to feel free to express their opinions on very difficult questions in a safe and respectful environment.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Oral Presentation - 25%

Students will be required to give a 20 minute presentation on their term paper topics as works in progress, followed by a 10 minute period to field questions. Students will be graded on their oral speaking skills (e.g. audibility, clarity, ability to answer questions), organization of the presentation, to what degree any media or visuals (e.g. powerpoint) effectively convey the content of the presentation if used, and the content of the presentations (e.g. knowledge of the subject matter, research shown during the presentation, how well developed the thesis is).

These presentations will be scheduled in time slots during classes that follow Reading Week in consultation with the students themselves based on their availability for any given dates.

Term Paper (25 to 30 pages) - 75%

July 2019

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).