

**University of Guelph**  
**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**  
**SOC\*4030 - Advanced Topics in Criminology - Sentencing as a Social Process**  
**Fall 2023**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Tony MacKinnon

**Location & Time**

Tuesdays & Thursdays - 2:30 pm - 3:50 pm

The University of Guelph resides on the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize this gathering place where we work and learn is home to many past, present, and future First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Our acknowledgement of the land is our declaration of our collective responsibility to this place and its peoples' histories, rights, and presence. Our school supports and adds our collective voice to the "CALLS TO ACTION" from the Truth and Reconciliation Committee on Indian Residential School to never forget, to hold governments and colonial forces to account, to seek redress and healing for injustice.

**Course Description**

This is an advanced seminar, intended for students who have already taken some courses in the general area of criminal law, and who want to examine in depth the process, results & implications of criminal sentencing. Seminar topics this year include principles of sentencing, sentencing "tools", the sentencing of specific categories of offenders and/or social issues that are of current significance, as well as some specifics about sentencing hearings, roles, and procedures.

**Learning Objectives**

By successfully completing this course, students will develop competencies in:

- obtaining, processing, adapting, and applying information
- communicating effectively both orally and in writing
- participating in intellectual debates and discussions
- presenting effective and influential arguments
- planning, organizing, and prioritizing work
- Understanding the legal principles and framework of criminal sentencing law in Canada
- Identifying and evaluating competing interests, priorities and purposes at issue in specific and general sentencing contexts
- Identifying the evolution of legal sentencing principles and enactments, past, present and future.

**University of Guelph**  
**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**  
**SOC\*4030 - Advanced Topics in Criminology - Sentencing as a Social Process**  
**Fall 2023**

**Readings**

Each week there are **assigned required readings**, usually consisting of the week's relevant sections of the *Criminal Code of Canada*; plus a specific journal article or chapter; plus a leading reported case, or excerpt, from the jurisprudence in the week's subject area. The required readings will be made available electronically.

**Course Requirements and Assessment**

Assessments for the course will include regular participation; a presentation; a paper proposal; and a final term paper. Once finalized, the course syllabus may include other minor evaluation aspects such as a short reflection. This is a seminar course in which active participation is a fundamental part of the learning experience. In light of this, attendance is required. Students should plan to devote time to preparing for class each week, in addition to the assignments required. The success of this seminar course depends on the active participation of the students.

**Course Overview:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Sept 7	Introduction & Legal Framework
2	Sept 12, 14	Legal Framework + Sentencing Principles
3	Sept 19, 21	Sentencing Principles: Deterrence & Rehabilitation
4	Sept 26, 28	Community Options: Conditional Sentences & Probation
5	Oct 3, 5	Aboriginal Offenders
6	Oct 12, 17	Racialized Offenders
7	Oct 19, 24	Intimate Partner Violence
8	Oct 26, 31	Murder; Dangerous & Long Term Offenders
9	Nov 2, 7	Addictions
10	Nov 9, 14	Mental Health
11	Nov 16, 21	The role of victims
12	Nov 23, 28	Judicial decisions & Minimum sentences