



Guidelines for learning goals and outcomes as well as writing standards, Criminal Justice, University of Winnipeg

The purpose of this document is to specify suggested writing requirements for all courses offered by our department. The document also stipulates definite rationales, goals, and outcomes for each level of study. The document is a general curricular guideline and is not intended to provide students with a contractual expectation of what to anticipate in specific courses; course syllabi may, on occasion, differ from what is described in this document. When they do, students should follow the syllabus.

	1000-level courses
Format	Lectures. Reading assigned will include textbooks, but will also include exposure to original academic writing in criminal justice usually delivered through Nexus readings or library assignments.
Purpose	Required for all majors; introduction to foundational concepts of and topics in criminal justice and social science.
Learning goals	Overall picture of the discipline; introduction to important concepts and key areas of research in criminal justice and social science.
Learning outcomes	At completion, students should be able to locate academic sources on the internet and in the library, and be able to understand scholarly writing in criminal justice. The students should gain the ability to engage with criminal justice and social science debates and evidence.
Suggested writing requirement	At least one assignment of 3-6, double spaced pages in length (1,200-1,500 words), preferably based on library research or equivalent.
Evaluation	Multiple choice and short answer exams and a take home written component (e.g., short assignment).

	2000-level courses
Format	Lectures and tutorials. Assigned reading will include textbooks, but will include some exposure to scholarly writing usually delivered through Nexus readings or library assignments.
Purpose	2000 level courses are introductory methods and theory courses or introductory courses in a substantive area that provide some breadth of knowledge in a particular field.
Learning goals	Overview of the field, introduction to specialized vocabulary and concepts and introduction to the important debates, controversies, and important schools of thought.
Learning outcomes	At completion of 2000 level courses, students should be able to find scholarly sources within particular fields of research, read and understand scholarly criminal justice and social science articles and draw on them for short literature reviews.
Suggested writing requirement	At least one assignment involving intensive library research of 6-10 pages, double spaced , in length (1,800-2,500 words) or equivalent.
Evaluation	Exams are a mixture of multiple choice and written evaluation, including short-answer questions and essay questions.



	<u>3000-level courses</u>
Format	Lectures. Assigned reading may include books but will also include mainly scholarly articles as well as exposure to primary criminal justice and social science writing.
Purpose	Both elective and core courses are advanced courses that develop greater depth and background in criminal justice and social science. Courses at this level build in a cumulative manner on 1000 and 2000 level courses.
Learning goals	Content in elective and core courses draws on 1000 and 2000 level material; emphasis is more on in-depth discussion of selected issues rather than breadth of coverage.
Learning outcomes	In 3000-level courses, students should be able to conduct extensive literature reviews that include synthesis of different criminal justice and social science perspectives, and apply criminal justice and social science concepts and theories in written assignments. Students should be able to develop a thesis statement and support it through research.
Suggested writing requirement	At least one essay involving literature reviews and application of concepts, 10-15 pages, double spaced , in length (2,800-3,500 words) or equivalent.
Evaluation	Short-answer and essay exams, written assignments.

	<u>4000-level courses</u>
Format	Interactive lectures and seminars. Assigned reading involves scholarly articles, original monographs, and primary sources usually delivered through Nexus reading, library assignments, or through scholarly databases.
Purpose	Lectures and seminars offer advanced discussions that integrate the diverse elements of criminal justice and social science scholarship.
Content	Key debates and controversies within particular fields of research in criminal justice and social science.
Learning goals	At the 4000 level, students should be able to analyze and adapt criminal justice and social science models, theories and methods and participate in research projects using either primary or secondary data. Students should be able to create a thesis statement and integrate research into an essay to develop and support their thesis statement. Students should begin to understand the concept of original scholarly contributions but need not demonstrate this in their own work.
Suggested Writing Requirement	At least one term paper, involving advanced literature reviews, and application or interpretation of a criminal justice and social science model, or of original research of at least 16-30 pages in length (4000-5,000 words) or equivalent. Original research includes evidence that the student has met University ethical protocols.
Evaluation	Major paper, short-answer and essay exams.

Consequence: Criminal Justice majors will gain advanced methodological and theoretical literacy and will be aware of the transferable skills that they have acquired during the course of their education at the University of Winnipeg.