

MASTER OF ARTS CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CJ)

Updated April 21, 2021

Criminal Justice Graduate Program Chair: Professor Michael Weinrath Professor: S. Kohm; Associate Professors: M. Bertrand, K. Gorkoff, K. Walby; Assistant Professors: B. Dobchuk-Land, M. D. Spencer; A. Tepperman; Instructors: A. Curran, S. Heath, J. Lothian Murray.

INTRODUCTION

Criminal Justice is an interdisciplinary field that examines police, courts, corrections, victims and youth justice. Criminal Justice at the University of Winnipeg focuses on multiple aspects of the justice system, exploring social responses to crime and policies designed to ameliorate its effects. Increasingly, modern and progressive police forces, legal agencies, and correctional organizations are recruiting individuals with education in related areas such as criminal justice, and with good reason. Organizations are relying more and more on research-based decision-making and policy development. Executives, managers and policy unit workers with such knowledge and skills are becoming increasingly important.

Our 24-month program provides opportunities for advanced training in theory, methods and research, as well as options to learn in research field placements related to potential future domains of employment such as policing, corrections, social services and policy development. The program may be completed part time or full time and students may pursue a course and project-based or course and thesis-based program of study. Because of its flexibility and options for practical and applied studies, the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice will appeal to both in-service professionals as well as traditional students pursuing advanced studies in the social sciences.

Objectives

Students will gain

- a) a strong understanding of contemporary criminal justice theories;
- b) a strong grasp of research methodology, study design and application;
- c) knowledge of critical and historical perspectives on the criminal justice system, its agents and its strengths and limitations in responding to the socially disadvantaged.

Admission (Deadline February 1, 2022)

How to Apply:

1. Complete the on-line application form available at <https://oa.uwinnipeg.ca/OnlineAdmissions>
2. Provide official/notarized transcripts of academic work completed to date, sent directly from the issuing institution. If the transcript does not show that a completed degree has been conferred, an official/notarized copy of your diploma or a letter indicating the expected date of graduation is also required.
3. Supply two confidential letters of recommendation from individuals most familiar with your academic work and relevant experience. Letters should be signed and sealed if they are submitted by the student as part of an application package.
4. Attach a statement of interest of 500 words, which includes a brief description of your undergraduate training, your reasons for applying to this program and to the specialization you've selected, and your areas of research interest.
5. If applicable, attach an academic résumé. Pertinent listings include scholarships, awards, grants, and other distinctions; conference papers, other presentations, and publications; and volunteer and community service.
6. Include a writing sample, preferably an essay, written in English, from a recent course with the instructor's comments visible on the essay. The committee will also consider supplementary materials.
7. Applicants for whom English is an additional language should include an official copy of TOEFL or IELTS scores.

Application Deadline:

Application packages will be on hold until ALL required documents are received. The application deadline is **February 1** for Canadian applicants and **December 15** for international applicants. Applications received after the official deadlines may be considered for admission, but financial assistance cannot be guaranteed for late applicants. The normal date to begin the program is September. Applications with references received by February 1st, qualify for funding. Information on awards and how to apply is outlined at: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/graduate-studies/> , look to the right and click on “Funding” under Graduate Studies Links.

English requirement for applicants for whom English is an additional language:

A minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based), or 100 (internet-based), with a score of at least 22 on the writing and speaking component; or an IELTS score of 7.5. Please note that the TOEFL requirement is higher for the MA in Criminal Justice than the general requirement for Graduate Studies at the University of Winnipeg.

The test should have been taken within a year of the date on which a completed application is filed.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for admission to the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, students will preferably hold a recognized Honours degree in Criminal Justice or Criminology with a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students with a four-year social science degree, strong backgrounds in theory and methods and a minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher will also be considered.

Students without a strong background in criminology or criminal justice may be asked to take additional courses at the third or fourth year level or complete a qualifying year.

Individuals with five or more years of experience at the line level (police officer, probation officer) in the justice field may be given credit for CJ-3800/6 field placement, although this will only be put towards qualifying year courses. There may be other professional experiences that can be considered.

Further inquiries should be directed towards Graduate Program Chair Dr. Michael Weinrath at m.weinrath@uwinnipeg.ca or 204-786-9100.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN M.A. IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Options

MA Courses and Thesis
MA Courses and Project

Length	Expected
Full time	24 months
Part Time	48 months

Credit Hours 27

It is the objective of the Criminal Justice Master's degree program to equip graduates to think and write critically, and to conduct empirical or legal research. The Criminal Justice Master's program anticipates students taking one of two streams to accomplish this. In the course-based research project stream, students will complete 27 credit hours, with 3 of those credits taken in their last term, when they are completing their research project paper. Including the project course, 15 hours in the MA are required. Twelve hours may be taken from CJ electives, as well as approved courses from the MPA or Indigenous Governance graduate programs. The thesis-based option also requires 27 hours; 9 of those credits involve researching and writing the thesis. There are 4 other required courses. Electives total 6 hours and may include selected courses from the MPA or Indigenous Governance graduate programs.

Differences between the two streams pertain to the breadth and scope of the thesis stream. Thesis stream students are required to propose and execute a more original and elaborate research study, and provide a more extensive written manuscript than those in the project stream. **More details can be found for the thesis at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/criminal-justice/docs/gcj-7900-description.pdf> and for the research project at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/criminal-justice/docs/gcj-7801-description.pdf> .**

REQUIREMENTS – COURSE BASED OPTION

27 Credits

Required (15 hours)

GCJ 7101/3 *Conceptualizing Criminal Justice*
GCJ 7117/3 *Research Design*
GCJ 7130/3 *Constitutional Issues in Criminal Law*
GCJ 7140/3 *Criminal Justice Policy*
GCJ 7801/3 *Research Project*

Electives (12 hours)

*GCJ 7105/3 *Youth & the Criminal Justice System*
*GCJ 7116/3 *Program & Policy Evaluation*
*GCJ 7300/3 *Critical Criminal Justice Theory*
GCJ 7400/3 *Selected Topics*
GCJ 7401/3 *Directed Readings*
*GCJ 7500 *Colonialism and Criminal Justice in Canada*
*GCJ 7654 *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Preventing Wrongful Convictions*
GCJ 7800/6 *Criminal Justice Research Field Placement*
GCJ 7802/3 *Criminal Justice Research Field Placement*

*May not be repeated if taken at the 4000 level.

REQUIREMENTS – THESIS BASED OPTION

27 Credits

Required (21 hours)

GCJ 7101/3 *Conceptualizing Criminal Justice*
GCJ 7117/3 *Research Design*
GCJ 7130/3 *Constitutional Issues in Criminal Law*
GCJ 7140/3 *Criminal Justice Policy*
GCJ 7900/9 *Thesis*

Electives (6 hours)

*GCJ 7105/3 *Youth & the Criminal Justice System*
*GCJ 7116/3 *Program & Policy Evaluation*
*GCJ 7300/3 *Critical Criminal Justice Theory*
GCJ 7400/3 *Selected Topics*
GCJ 7401/3 *Directed Readings*
*GCJ 7500 *Colonialism and Criminal Justice in Canada*
*GCJ 7654 *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Preventing Wrongful Convictions*
GCJ 7800/6 *Criminal Justice Research Field Placement*
GCJ 7802/3 *Criminal Justice Research Field Placement*

*May not be repeated if taken at the 4000 level.

Select courses from the Master's of Public Administration and Indigenous Governance may also serve as electives

Indigenous Governance

GIS-7021(6) *Pathways to Indigenous Wisdom*
GIS-7022(6) *Indigenous Research Methodologies and Ethics*
GIS-7024(3) *Biocultural Diversity Conservation: Balancing Scientific and Indigenous Knowledge Practices.*
GIS-7026(3) *Community Food Security: Indigenous and International Perspectives.*
GIS-7028(6) *Human and Indigenous Rights in Latin America*
GPOL 7385(3) *Special Topics in Public Administration*

For either the research project or thesis, the faculty supervisor must be a member of the Criminal Justice Department. The supervisor will provide direction to the student on the program of study, direct research and supervise the research project or thesis.

Students are expected to obtain a minimum grade of B (grade point of 3.0) in all courses presented for graduation.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GCJ 7101 Conceptualizing Criminal Justice (Le 3) This course provides an overview of the history and theoretical infrastructure of the academic study of criminal justice. Students will be given an overview of the theoretical and philosophical development of the discipline and explore the history of academic studies of crime and justice in North America. The course emphasizes the major theoretical perspectives of criminal justice studies and their application to graduate level study of criminal law and the court process; policing and security; and punishment and corrections.

GCJ 7105 Youth and The Criminal Justice System (Le 3) This course provides a critical examination of systemic problems and policy issues in youth justice. The course evaluates the effectiveness of current criminal justice legal reforms, interventions, treatment programs, and policies aimed at youth. Specific topics include public discourse on youth crime and justice, the social construction of adolescents involved with the youth justice system, the interface of corollary systems of child welfare and mental health, the administration of youth justice systems and a comparative analysis of the policy choices made in developing frameworks for responding to youth justice.

RESTRICTIONS: Students may not have credit for this course and CJ-4105/3.

GCJ 7116 (Le3, La1) Program & Policy Evaluation This course examines methodologies for the formal assessment of social programs using quantitative and qualitative methods of inquiry including survey, interview, observation and case study techniques. The political and social processes framing evaluation research are also discussed.

RESTRICTIONS: Students may not have credit for this course and CJ-4116/3.

GCJ 7117 Research Design (Le 3) This course examines the research process, including frameworks for inquiry, phases of conceptualization, choice of indicators, sampling, data collection, and analysis. Students will learn how to plan criminal justice inquiry, formulate a research question, relate the question to existing theory and existing research, and determine appropriate data collection and analysis strategies. This course offers an integrated approach to the problems involved in design of research, analysis of data, as well as research ethics.

GCJ 7130 Constitutional Issues in Criminal Law (Le 3)

Drawing on the principles of the law of police investigation and surveillance theory, this course examines the latest developments in the Supreme Court of Canada's police powers jurisprudence. Recent cases will include those dealing with Charter guarantees related to rights to silence, counsel, privacy, freedom from unlawful search, detention and arrest and, also, exclusion of evidence will be discussed. The course will also examine the constitutional development of principles of fundamental justice in Canada unique to the criminal law.

PREREQUISITE OR COREQUISITE – Must have one of 7116(3) or 7117(3).

GCJ 7140 Criminal Justice Policy (Le3) The course will engage students in critical and controversial policy debates such as distributive and procedural justice, use of evidence-based practice, police oversight, technology and surveillance in the criminal justice system, regulation of the sex trade, regulation of illicit drugs, problem solving courts, rehabilitation models, use of custody and sex offender notification.

GCJ 7300(3) Critical Criminal Justice Theory (Le3) An in-depth examination of original works in social, political, and cultural theory are used to understand and make sense of criminal justice policy and practice. The course focuses on key themes and canonical works across the social sciences and justice studies. Surveys major perspectives in, and critical responses to, classical and contemporary theories, including post-structuralism, (post-) Marxism, and (post-) feminism. Topics including trends in the social sciences and justice studies; the objective world versus social construction; the nature of justice; agency versus structure; the relation between research and praxis; knowledge and power, may be considered.

RESTRICTIONS: Students may not have credit for this course and CJ-4300/3.

GCJ 7400 Selected Topics in Criminal Justice (Le3) This course examines specific topics in criminal justice at the graduate level. Students should consult the department regarding potential offerings in a given year.

GCJ 7401 Directed Readings (D3) In this course, criminal justice readings and assignments are arranged between an individual student and department faculty member. Topics may not duplicate regular course offerings in criminal justice or other departments. A course outline with assignments, meeting schedule between the instructor and student, written assignments and course weights must be approved in advance. This course is an opportunity to explore a specialized topic in the interdisciplinary context of the field.

RESTRICTIONS: Course outline must be pre-approved by the Departmental Graduate Committee.

GCJ 7500 Colonialism and Criminal Justice in Canada

(Le3) This seminar course explores the relationship between settler colonialism and the criminal justice system in Canada. The course considers the criminal justice system as one among many interlocking systems that both shape the life chances of Indigenous peoples in the present, and continue to be shaped by Indigenous peoples' resistance to attempted domination. Topics include Indigenous legal systems, deaths in custody, policing, murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, social work, resistance and resurgence movements, and restorative justice. Emphasis is placed on reading Indigenous scholars from across Turtle Island and cultivating tools to critically engage with hegemonic narratives about Indigenous criminalization.

RESTRICTIONS: Students may not have credit for this course and CJ-4500/3.

GCJ 7654 Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Preventing

Wrongful Convictions (Le3) A combination of legal and social-science perspectives and readings will be used to identify how and why wrongful convictions take place and to discuss evidence-based remedies to reduce their likelihood. Topics may include the roles of eyewitness memory, false confessions, plea bargaining, forensic biases, prosecutors and defence counsel, misleading scientific evidence, and unsavoury Crown witnesses. This course, which may be co-taught between University of Winnipeg Criminal Justice and University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, uses an interdisciplinary lens to examine the issue of wrongful convictions in Canada.

RESTRICTIONS: Students may not have credit for this course and CJ-4654/3.

GCJ 7800(6) CJ Research Field Placement This course places students in a criminal justice or human services agency to conduct a research project or projects. Students provide service to the community while gaining the benefit of practitioner experience.

GCJ 7802(3) CJ Research Field Placement This course places students in a criminal justice or human services agency to conduct a research project or projects. Students provide service to the community while gaining the benefit of practitioner experience.

GCJ 7801 Research Project (D3) The research project is a piece of original writing based on independent research, submitted in fulfillment of the course based criminal justice stream. The intent of this course is for students to build on skills from courses in their graduate program, choose a criminal justice topic area of interest and complete a research project. Completion of the course requires a written report and an oral presentation.

GCJ 7900(9) Master's Thesis Students choose a research topic in consultation with a Thesis supervisor and write a Thesis paper. The Thesis is evaluated by a Thesis Committee and then presented in an oral defense.