



Criminal Justice (CRJS) 370

Youth Justice (Revision 2)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the **course listing** [↗](#) for the current revision **✕**

Delivery mode: Individualized study online [↗](#) with eText [↗](#)

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts or Social Science

Prerequisites: None

Precluded: None

Challenge: CRJS 370 is not available for challenge.

Faculty: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences [↗](#)

Overview

CRJS 370: Youth Justice is a three-credit, undergraduate-level course that takes a criminological approach to understanding Canada's separate youth justice system. Young offenders receive special status under the law in Canada. How we respond to youth crime is important to society and, more broadly, to criminal justice. This course explores major theoretical perspectives that seek to explain the causes, nature, and processes of youth crime and delinquency and how the criminal justice system responds to them. Specifically, students examine what youth crime "looks like" in Canada and how it is measured for research purposes. The course also focuses on the historical development and policy shifts that have changed how the system handles young offenders. This includes an examination of police discretion with youth, sentencing, and the use of interventions and programming to prevent youth crime. Students learn about—and critically evaluate—the current debates and issues in youth justice: Are youth more violent today than in the past? Does increasing penalties reduce youth crime? Do crime prevention programs work? Can we effectively rehabilitate young offenders?

Outline

CRJS 370 is divided into seven units:

- Unit 1 – What Is a Youth Justice System and Why Do We Have a Separate System for Young People?
- Unit 2 – Theoretical Explanations of Delinquency
- Unit 3 – Understanding Youth Crime and Prevention
- Unit 4 – Understanding Discretion and the Use of Diversion in Youth Justice
- Unit 5 – Sentencing Young Offenders
- Unit 6 – Social Justice Issues: Exploring the Social Context of Youth Crime and Justice
- Unit 7 – The Future of Youth Justice

Objectives

When you have completed CRJS 370: Youth Justice, you should be able to:

- Understand the historical, social, and political shifts that have influenced how youth justice systems operate in Canada.
- Understand the theoretical perspectives used to explain the causes, nature, and processes of criminal behaviour and youth crime.
- Appreciate the distinction between youth crime and youth justice.
- Understand how we formally respond to youth crime.
- Appreciate the social injustices perpetuated within the youth justice system.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [🔗](#) for CRJS 370, you must achieve a cumulative grade across the course of **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) or higher to pass the course. The weighting of the grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1 Research Paper Proposal	10%
Assignment 2 Case Study	20%
Assignment 3 Research Paper	30%
Final exam Multiple Choice Exam	40%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be taken online with an AU-approved exam invigilator at an approved invigilation centre. It is your responsibility to ensure your chosen invigilation centre can accommodate online exams. For a list of invigilators who can accommodate online exams, visit the **Exam Invigilation Network** [↗](#).

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

Materials

Bell, S. J. (2015). *Young Offenders and Youth Justice: A Century After the Fact* (5th ed.). Toronto: Nelson.  (eText)

eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks** [↗](#), please refer to our **eText Initiative site** [↗](#).

Other Materials

All of the course materials for CRJS 370 are available online through the myAU portal. The textbook is available digitally and will be sent to you before your course start date.

Important links

- › **Academic advising** [↗](#)
- › **Program planning** [↗](#)
- › **Request assistance** [↗](#)
- › **Support services** [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View **previous revision** [↗](#)
