



Crime and Public Policy
Spring 2017
01:202:204:01
Tues, Thurs 6:40-8:00 p.m.
Tillett Hall – Room 242

Instructor: Brian Donnelly, Esq.

Contact Information: Phone: 908-526-1200 x18228

Email: brian.donnelly@raritanval.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 6 :00 -6 :30 p.m. Rm. A355

Prior to or after class and by appointment

Program in Criminal Justice
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Learning Goals:
A Statement of Principles

The Program Committee for the Program in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in New Brunswick has adopted a series of learning goals for students who complete the major. These goals represent the consensus of the faculty regarding the concepts a student should grasp and the skills a student should acquire in the course of completing the major. These goals guide the choices faculty make about the structure of the curriculum and the requirements for our majors. Moreover, they guide faculty and instructors preparing course material and teaching courses.

The Program in Criminal Justice will provide students with a rich understanding of crime and criminal justice in the United States and abroad through an interdisciplinary approach that blends a strong liberal arts educational experience with pre-professional instruction in the field of criminal justice. Graduates of the program will be well-informed citizens on the topic of crime and justice, and qualified for graduate study or for employment as practitioners in a variety of legal, policymaking, and law enforcement fields.

Criminal justice majors graduating from a research university should be able to use critical thinking, factual inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to individual and group behavior. In addition, students should have an understanding of the legal, political and policymaking processes that affect criminal justice systems in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Finally, students should be familiar with the institutional structures and latest developments in the field in order to engage in meaningful debate about current public policy issues.

Learning Goals for Criminal Justice Majors



1. Competence:

- a.) **Theory.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand and be able to articulate, both orally and in writing, the core theoretical concepts that form the foundation of analysis and research in criminology and criminal justice today. Core concepts are derived from explanations of crime from a variety of perspectives, including biogenic, psychological, and sociological approaches. There are myriad theories of crime that are informed by these perspectives, including, classical, control, critical, ecology, labeling, learning, strain, and trait-based approaches. Theoretical literacy should extend to multicultural and international understanding.
- b.) **Institutions.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand the special role of three types of institutions: Police, Corrections, and Courts. In addition, students should know how institutional forms vary across jurisdictions and how these institutions interact with and influence each other.
- c.) **Research Methods.** Students who complete the criminal justice major should be familiar with the tools, techniques, and data sources necessary for empirical analysis. Students should understand the various ways that empirical analysis is used in the scientific approach: for description, for developing, and for testing theories. They should be able to analyze data using computer applications and should be familiar with basic statistical techniques and regression analysis. They should be able to read and assess research from a wide range of sources, including general interest, academic, and government publications.

2. **Critical Thinking:** Upon completion of the major students should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and quantitative tools to analyze and research real world problems, and evaluate alternative policy proposals on a range of criminal justice issues, from micro-level analyses relevant to particular cases to management concerns to macro-level analyses of legislative and other broad-scale policies. Accomplishment of this goal will require that students can apply their literacy and numeracy skills to different institutional structures, within the U.S. and across countries.
3. **Scholarship:** Qualified majors should have an opportunity through such avenues as advanced coursework, internships, and faculty interactions to conduct independent research on matters of central relevance to the field of criminal justice.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the American criminal justice system to assess whether or not it effectively reduces crime and achieves justice. We will learn about the law and processes of the justice system in order to evaluate its proficiency as an instrument of social control. We will also examine the ideals and objectives of law enforcement, and we will explore sociological issues of race, class, gender, and power, in order to develop more effective strategies in the planning and development of crime policy.

REQUIRED TEXT

Criminal Justice: Mainstream and Crosscurrents, 3rd ed. By John Randolph Fuller, Oxford University Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0-19-999796-1 There may be additional handouts and readings distributed by the Professor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- 1) Describe how the criminal justice system evolved from its origins to the institution it has now become.
- 2) Discuss how law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system engage in the work of social control.
- 3) Describe the legal, philosophical, and political issues that constrain the criminal justice system.
- 4) Discuss the need for reform in the criminal justice system and describe some of the major reform strategies.
- 5) Understand how the criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system are related



- 6) Understand how crime is measured and how the media influences criminal justice policy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) *Attendance & Participation*

Participation and attendance are required and mandatory, as they count toward your grade. Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An e-mail is automatically sent to me. You are expected to have the material read for the respective class. Students are encouraged to take an active part in all classroom discussion and will be called on regularly. Please remember that participation will be graded accordingly.

2) *Disability Policy & Accommodations*

- Full disability policies and procedures are at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>
- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

3) *Reading Material*

Readings are assigned for every class.

4) *Newspaper Article Review*

A part of your grade will be a write-up of a newspaper article pertaining to the criminal justice system and public policy. Electronic copy newspaper articles can be searched by key words. No Wikipedia. The article should be attached to a 2 page type-written write-up. Students should outline the problem or topic in the article and depending on the content; they should offer suggestions, opinions or remedies- **DO NOT SIMPLY REGURGITATE THE ARTICLE.** The basic question is why did you select this article, what interested you to it and how does it affect society.

5) *Assignments*

There will be several announced assignments on covered topics and current events. These assignments will be further explained in class.



COURSE GRADING

The final grade will be determined using the following weighting scale:

Midterm	25%
Final Exam	35%
Assignments	15%
Newspaper Article	15%
Attendance, participation	10%

GRADING SCALE

A	100-- 90
B+	89-- 85
B	84-- 80
C+	79-- 75
C	74-- 70
D	69-- 60
F	59 and below

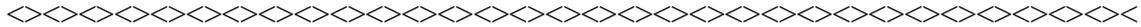
ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Rutgers University has a well defined academic integrity policy, which will strictly enforced in this class. All students in this class should review and be familiar with the policy of the university, which can be found at

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Spring 2017--COURSE SCHEDULE

This calendar of events is subject to change based on the completion of course material and student progress.



- Jan. 17 **Introduction**
 Presentation of the syllabus, requirements and discussion of current issues.
- Jan. 19 & 24 Police Use of Force- Scenarios/ Case Studies
- Jan. 26 & 31 Recent shootings of police officers
- Feb. 2 & 7 Chapter 1- Crime and the Problem of Social Control
- Feb. 9 Chapter 3- Theories of Crime/ Media & Labeling
- Feb. 14 & 16 Chapter 4- Criminal Law
- Feb. 21 Police- Stop and Frisk
- Feb. 23 & 28 Chapter 6- Policing and the Law
- March 7 Chapter 7- Issues in Policing
- March 9 Midterm**
- March 14 & 16 Spring Break- No classes held**
- March 21 Midterm grade return and discussion. Written Opinions Due**
- March 23 & 28 Chapter 9- Working in the Courtroom
- March 30 Prosecutor Discretion
- April 4 & 6 Chapter 10- The Disposition
- April 11 & 13 Chapter 13- Corrections in the Community
- April 18 Death Penalty
- April 20 & 25 Chapter 14- Juvenile Justice
- April 27 Chapter 15- Victims of Crime/ Review



May4-10 Final Exam Date to be Determined

<http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

For any changes that may unexpectedly occur

Student-Wellness Services:



Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.