

Crime and Public Policy
01:202:204
Lucy Stone Hall, B117
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Denise Mayfryer
FALL 2016
T/TH 6:40-8:00 PM

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.

Objectives:

At the conclusion of the class, each student will be able to do the following:

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

Required Text:

Criminal Justice: Mainstream and Crosscurrents. John Randolph Fuller. Oxford University Press. 2014.

Evaluation Plan:

Final grades will be assigned upon successful completion of all course requirements, the quality of work and timeliness of completed assignments.

Midterm Exam: Will be given about halfway through the course covering Chapters One through Eight. The exam will consist of true/false and/or multiple choice questions.

Final Exam: Will be a comprehensive exam covering all material but weighted toward Chapters Nine through Sixteen. The exam will consist of true/false and/or multiple choice questions. The date and location of the exam is strictly governed by Rutgers University and can be viewed at <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu>.

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Attendance & Participation	20%
Assignments & Quizzes	20%

The final grade will be assigned based upon the following scale:

A	=	90-100	C	=	70-74.9
B+	=	85-89.9	D	=	60-69.9
B	=	80-84.9	F	=	59 and below
C+	=	75-79.9			

Preparation:

The assigned readings are the basis of class discussion each session. Students are expected to have read the assigned text book chapters and other material prior to class. *All assignments are due on the specified date.*

Attendance/Participation/Lateness:

Each student is expected to attend each class on time. For each class, those attending will receive a 90 for that day and those actively participating will receive a 100 for that day. Those arriving more than 10 minutes after class, will receive a 60 for that day. Those not attending class will receive a zero for that day.

Exams will be comprised of information from class lectures, media presentations and reading material.

Professionalism and courtesy is expected from each student. Using any device (other than a laptop/tablet for notetaking or other device for accommodation or by permission) is not permitted. Side conversations are disruptive. Disrespect of others with differing opinions or for other reasons is not acceptable. Those not behaving professionally and respectfully will be asked to leave.

Quizzes:

Occasionally, an unannounced brief quiz will be given at the beginning of class. The quiz will be based on the assigned class reading and/or a homework assignment. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There are no make-ups for quizzes.

Assignments:

Assignments will be homework given in addition to the required reading. The assignment might consist of additional brief readings and/or short videos and/or a written response. Most assignments will be supplemental to the course textbook and/or topically related to the course. All assignments are due on the specified date. There are no make-ups for missed assignments.

Make-Up Exam:

Make-up exams are a privilege that may be granted only under extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the professor. Make-up exams will be contingent upon a legitimate, bona fide excuse (such as death in the family, debilitating illness, emergency situation) that is presented prior to the test period (in almost all cases). The make-up exam will be given immediately upon cessation of the condition that caused the student to miss the exam. Failure to take the make-up as scheduled will result in a zero grade.

Cheating:

Do not do it. Sanctions for cheating and plagiarism will be levied in accordance with the University Policy in Academic Integrity. Each student should review the policy at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. Suspected cases of policy violations will be reported to the Department Chair and to the appropriate Dean.

Special Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations for this class are encouraged to meet with the professor or the appropriate disability service provider on campus as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations, students must be registered with the appropriate disability service provider on campus and must follow the University procedure for self-disclosure. Students will not be afforded any special accommodations for academic work completed prior to disclosure of the disability and completion of the registration process with the appropriate disability service provider on campus.

Course Outline:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
1	Crime and the Problem of Social Control	Chapter 1
2	The Nature & Measurement of Crime	Chapter 2 &
	Theories of Crime	Chapter 3
3	Criminal Law	Chapter 4
4	The History & Organization of Law	Chapter 5
	Enforcement	
6	Policing & the Law	Chapter 6 &
	Issues in Policing	Chapter 7
7	History & Organization of the Courts	Chapter 8
Midterm Exam – toward the end of October		
8	Working in the Courtroom	Chapter 9
9	Disposition: Plea Bargaining, Trial & Sentencing	Chapter 10
10	History of Control & Punishment	Chapter 11
11	Contemporary Prison Life	Chapter 12
12	Corrections in the Community	Chapter 13
13	Juvenile Justice	Chapter 14
14	Victims of Crime & Victimless Crimes	Chapters 15 &
	Present & Emerging Trends: The Future Of Criminal Justice	Chapter 16

Final Exam per University schedule