

Crime and Social Policy (CJ 4001) - Fall 2008 syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Wood
Office: Rm 527, Gladfelter Hall
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 9:30-11:00 AM and by appointment
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Class location and time

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:40AM – 1:00PM
Room 6, Anderson Hall

Course description

This course explores the social policy implications of various perspectives on crime. It discusses the factors that do, or could shape policy debates and proposals, including ideology and politics, culture, economics and research evidence. It encourages students to understand both the complexity of crime problems as well as the need to assess the benefits, costs and consequences of various policy responses. Students debate a range of policy approaches to contemporary crime problems such as urban violence, family violence, sexual offending, drugs, and terrorism. The class critically examines existing crime strategies and policies including the *Three Strikes* legislation, the death penalty, residential restrictions for sex offenders, the 'war on drugs', and the 'war on terror'.

Course objectives

1. Isolate and understand the factors and developments (e.g. political, cultural, economic, research) that do, or could influence policy debates and policy development
2. Identify the theoretical assumptions about human behavior that underlie different policy approaches to crime
3. Assess the benefits as well as costs and consequences of some current criminal justice policies
4. Apply, compare and debate different theoretical, ideological, economic and evidence-based policy positions on a range of crime problems

Readings

Most course readings will be posted on Blackboard. Some readings will be available in portable document format (PDF) for your individual, educational use only (in accordance with copyright law). If you don't already have the PDF reader software you can download this for free at www.adobe.com. You will often be asked to read selected news articles on current events. Web links to these articles will be posted on Blackboard.

Course requirements

Participation (20%)

I expect you to contribute to class discussions and offer your questions, comments and insights. Sharing your individual perspectives on the complex issues we discuss is essential to making this class an enjoyable experience.

During the semester I will often pose questions to the class, ask for reflections on an issue or organize group activities. During certain classes I will grade your participation based on the following simple scale:

- 0 unsatisfactory or absent
- 1 satisfactory

You will not be penalized for absences/unsatisfactory responses totaling 3 points. An absence means that you were not in class any number of reasons. There are no opportunities to make up for absences.

3 in-class tests: 1st test (10%), 2nd test (15%), 3rd test (15%)

Three tests will be given in class as a means of assessing how well you've read and understood the assigned readings and the related material covered in class presentations and discussions. These tests will consist of multiple choice questions, true/false questions and short answer questions and will take place during the first half of the class on the specified date (**see class schedule**). During classes I will provide you with regular guidance on how to prepare for these tests.

Video journal (25%)

I will show several videos that address some crime and policy-related issues. In class we will discuss these videos, relate them to relevant assigned readings (the scholarly articles/chapters and/or articles in the popular press) and have a general class debate. On your own you will be asked to keep a journal that records your reflections on each video, centering on what stood out for you. You should write this journal cumulatively, as you go along and while your thoughts are fresh. The final product should be approximately 10-12 double-spaced pages.

These reflections should have 2 components: *observations* and *integration*. Your observations should involve identifying and explaining those issues and debates revealed in the video that you see to be the most important (there is no right or wrong opinion). Also, indicate whether you feel that the video provided a balanced view of the issue (whether you think it did or it didn't, please explain why). In terms of the integration component, identify any connections between your observations and the arguments/issues revealed in relevant class reading(s) and discussions. As a hypothetical example, you might say that both the video and a particular class reading discussed the influence of a punitive mentality on the development of a particular policy. In this instance you would briefly compare and contrast the discussions of retribution/punishment in both the video and the reading. If you incorporate direct quotes from the readings, please make sure to cite the references properly. This assignment will be discussed further in class. **This journal will be due November 25th.**

Final take-home short paper (15%)

In lieu of a sit-down final exam, you will be asked to write a brief paper that adopts a particular policy position on a crime topic discussed in class. More information will be given on this assignment closer to the time. The recommended length is a maximum of 4 double-spaced pages. **It is due no later than December 18th at 11:30 am.**

Class schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

| Date | Topic | Reading |
|-------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 09/02 | Introduction to the course | |
| | Crime and policy in context | |
| 09/04 | Ideology, politics and policy | <i>The Economist</i> article |
| 09/09 | The culture of crime control | Tonry chapter |
| 9/11 | | Moore and Liptak article, <i>NY Times</i> <i>Three Strikes</i> video |
| 09/16 | Costs of crime and crime control | Waller chapter |
| 09/18 | in-class test | no reading |
| 09/23 | Crime policy and social exclusion | Clear chapter |
| 09/25 | | Eckholm article, <i>NY Times</i> |
| 09/30 | Evidence and policy | Twexbury and Levenson article |
| 10/02 | in-class test | no reading |
| | Theories of intervention | |
| 10/07 | Deterrence | Liptake article, <i>NY Times</i> |
| 10/09 | Rehabilitation | Cullen and Gilbert chapter <i>Moral Panic</i> video |
| 10/14 | Just deserts | von Hirsch chapter |
| 10/16 | | video on the death penalty |
| 10/21 | Social prevention | Welsh and Farrington article Katz and Strupczewski article, <i>C. Post</i> |
| 10/23 | in-class test | no reading |
| 10/28 | Restorative justice | Braithwaite article |
| 10/30 | | <i>Beyond Conviction</i> video |
| | Crime topics | |
| 11/4 | Sexual offending | Walker article |
| 11/6 | Urban violence | Kotlowitz article, <i>NY Times Magazine</i> |
| 11/11 | School/campus violence | Lewin article, <i>NY Times</i> Graham article, <i>Phila. Inquirer</i> Viren article, <i>Houston Chronicle</i> |
| 11/13 | Family violence | Dobash article |
| 11/18 | Drugs | Inciardi chapter |
| 11/20 | | Cave article, <i>NY Times</i> <i>World's Most Dangerous Drug</i> video |

| Date | Topic | Reading |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11/25 | Terrorism video journal due | Speech by UK Prime Minister |
| 11/27 | | Thanksgiving |
| 12/2 | | <i>The Price of Security</i> video |
| 12/4 | | no reading |
| 12/9 | course wrap-up | |

Contacting the Instructor

My office is on the 5th floor of Gladfelter Hall, room 527. **My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am to 11am.** You may also wish to schedule an appointment via phone or e-mail. My office phone number is 215-204-8055 (on campus ext: 1-8055) and my e-mail address is woodj@temple.edu. I endeavor to respond to voice mails or e-mails as soon as possible unless I am out of town (in which case you'd be given advanced warning).

Disability services

Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the situation as soon as possible. Prior to speaking to me, you should contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 (they are at 100 Ritter Annex near the subway station). They can provide support and resources that will be useful for your overall educational experience.

Assessment Policy

Please note the following rules:

1. Deadlines are not negotiable.
2. Completion of all assessed items is compulsory. Failure to do so will result in failure of the course.
3. **Assignments that are submitted late will lose 10% of their individual value for each 24 hours (or part thereof) of a working day that the assignment is late.** This includes days where the Instructor is not in attendance and where the class is not sitting. If I'm not available to receive your assignment, then you must bring it in person to the main office (room 512) of the Criminal Justice Department and leave it for me, after asking one of the office staff to note the date and time on the assignment, and initial it. Written assignments that are more than five days late will not be graded and you will receive 0% for that assignment.
4. There are no make-up assessments or extra credit for this class.
5. It is your responsibility to avoid computer problems by making electronic back-up copies of your assignments in different locations (e.g. hard drive, virtual drive ('my backpack'), or thumb drive). It is also strongly advised to have a back-up hard paper copy. Corrupted or otherwise 'lost' files are not my responsibility, and do not constitute a valid reason for submitting a paper late. In other words, late penalties will apply in such situations.

Academic honesty

The university takes academic honesty very seriously. Plagiarism and academic cheating will not be tolerated. You are encouraged to collaborate and deliberate with your peers in discussing ideas. However, all written work must be your own and other sources must be cited properly. The APA citation

guide is posted in Blackboard under the 'course information' tab. The following section in italics is quote verbatim from the Temple university Bulletin for 2006-2007.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, another person's assistance. Normally, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. It is the instructor's responsibility to indicate the appropriate manner of citation. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism.

Academic cheating is, generally, the thwarting or breaking of the general rules of academic work or the specific rules of the individual courses. It includes falsifying data; submitting, without the instructor's approval, work in one course which was done for another; helping others to plagiarize or cheat from one's own or another's work; or actually doing the work of another person.

Students must assume that all graded assignments, quizzes, and tests are to be completed individually unless otherwise noted in class and on the syllabus. I reserve the right to assign a grade of "F" for the given paper, quiz or test and to refer any case of suspected plagiarism or cheating to the University Disciplinary Committee.

Statement on Academic Freedom

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link: http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02.

Pre and Co-requirements

There are no pre-requisites for this course.

Dropping the course in the first two weeks

During the first two weeks of a session, a student may withdraw from a course with no record of the class appearing on the transcript. This is accomplished with a Schedule Revision (Drop/Add) form, which the student must obtain, and which is processed through a registration office.

The last day to drop this course is **Monday, September 15th**.

Withdrawal from class in weeks three to nine

From week three to week nine, a student may withdraw from a course with the permission of an advisor. The course will be recorded on your transcript with the instructor's notation of 'W'. Withdrawal is accomplished with a Schedule Revision (Drop/Add) form, which the student must obtain, and which is processed through a registration office. The last effective day for withdrawal in this manner is **Monday, November 3rd**.