CCJS600: SEMINAR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Fall 2013

PROFESSOR

Brian D. Johnson, Ph.D.
2220K LeFrak Hall
Phone: (301) 405-4709
E-mail: bjohnson@crim.umd.edu

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 1:30PM – 3:30PM
Wednesday 1:30PM – 3:30PM
By Appointment

MEETING TIME

Wednesday 4:00PM – 6:45PM     Lefrak 1201

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a required course in the Traditional Master’s and Ph. D Program. It is intended to introduce you to contemporary issues in criminal justice, including current and historical concepts of criminal justice, interrelationships among different components of the system, and the role and function of the justice system in society. The course will be divided into four broad areas that include philosophies of punishment, contemporary policing issues, research on courtroom decision making, and modern trends in corrections.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students will be expected to attend class and should be prepared to discuss assigned readings. The course will rely heavily on student participation in addition to class lectures. Students will be expected to gain a deeper understanding of the fundamental issues surrounding police, courts and corrections. The ultimate goal of the course is to provide the student with a solid foundation for understanding contemporary issues in criminal justice, and to encourage them to think critically about the role that the criminal justice system, and its constituent parts, plays in the exercise of social control in society.

COURSE READINGS

Reading requirements for this course include several texts as well as a variety of readings from additional sources. You are responsible for obtaining copies of the texts. Articles will be provided.

Course Texts:
**Course Grading**

Grades for this course will be determined by class participation in conjunction with two examinations, several short writing assignments, and one take-home final paper. Final grades will be determined according to the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>A 89.5 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>B 80-89.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>C 70-79.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>D 60-69.5</td>
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<td>F below 60</td>
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*Pluses and Minuses with be assigned for grades within ± 3 percentage points from grading cutoffs*

**Class Discussion**

You will be expected to attend each class having read and critically thought about the required readings. Your discussion grade will result from your ability to intelligently identify, introduce and discuss interesting questions from the readings. This part of your grade is inherently subjective, but I will do my best to fairly assess your effort and participation in the class.

**Examinations**

Two in-class examinations will account for 60% of your final grade. These exams will be written essay exams covering major concepts from class lectures, readings, and discussion. Their purpose is to evaluate your ability to think critically about major concepts surrounding the administration of criminal justice in society. They will cover all of the major concepts covered in class lectures and class readings.

**Writing Assignments**

In addition to the examinations, you will also be expected to write several short “research” papers including three assignments based on scholarly research published in one of the following academic journals: *Criminology, Criminology and Public Policy, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Law & Society Review*, or *Justice Quarterly*. For these assignments, you will select a scholarly article that is relevant to one of the main topics discussed in class, and then write a short 1-3 page paper describing how the research you have chosen adds to and extends current knowledge on police, courts, or corrections. In other words, your job will be to integrate the article of your choice into our current discussion of contemporary criminal justice issues.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability, please contact Professor Johnson as soon as possible so that any special arrangements can be made.

**Online Course Management**

Online course resources will be provided through the university course management system available at elms.umd.edu. Students can access weekly reading assignments, the course syllabus, and other relevant class materials through this online system.
**WEEKLY READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

*Note: This is a tentative schedule subject to necessary adjustments. Additional Readings/Assignments may be given throughout the semester*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1: Overview of the Criminal Justice System</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1 (9/4): Introduction</strong></td>
<td>Course Syllabus</td>
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<td>Course Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syllabus/Grading/Expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td>On Crimes and Punishments – Context</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2 (9/11): The Meaning of Justice</strong></td>
<td>Beccaria, All Chpts.</td>
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<td>On Crimes and Punishments – Content</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3 (9/18): The Purposes of Punishment</strong></td>
<td>W&amp;P Ch. 14</td>
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<td>Theories of Punishment</td>
<td>Spohn Ch. 1</td>
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<td>Philosophies of Punishment</td>
<td>W&amp;P Ch. 19</td>
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<td>The Creation of Law in Society</td>
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<td>Crime Rates and Statistics</td>
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<td>Due Process and Crime Control</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4 (9/25): NO CLASS CHINA</strong></td>
<td>Walker, Ch. 1-3</td>
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<td>Walker, Ch. 4-7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Section 2: Police: Gatekeepers of the System</strong></td>
<td>Readings/Assignments</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5 (10/2): The Idea of Police</strong></td>
<td>Dunham, Ch. 1, 2, 3, 5</td>
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<td>The Role of Police in Society</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Writing Assignment Given</td>
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<td>Historical Perspectives on Policing</td>
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<td>Policing Research and Experimentation</td>
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<td>Police Discretion and Decision-Making</td>
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<td><strong>Week 6 (10/9): Innovations in Policing</strong></td>
<td>W&amp;P Ch. 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern Policing Innovations</td>
<td>Dunham Ch. 12, 22, 24, 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Oriented Policing</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Writing Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem Oriented Policing</td>
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<td>Broken Windows &amp; Hot Spots</td>
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<td>COMPSTAT</td>
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<td><strong>Week 7 (10/16):</strong></td>
<td>In-Class Examination I</td>
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<td><strong>In-Class Examination I</strong></td>
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## Section 3: Criminal Courts: Agents of Punishment

### Week 8 (10/23): The Development of Criminal Courts
- Historical Perspective on the Criminal Court
- The Age of Sentencing Reform
- Sentencing in Comparative Perspective
- The Rise of the Prosecutor

**Readings/Assignments**
- MacKenzie
- Spohn Ch. 6
- W&P Ch. 15

### Week 9 (10/30): Sentencing Guidelines
- Sentencing Commissions and their Guidelines
- State Sentencing Guidelines
- Federal Sentencing Guidelines
- Research on Sentencing Guidelines

**Readings/Assignments**
- Spohn Ch. 7
- W&P Ch. 16
- 2nd Writing Assignment Given

### Week 10 (11/6): The Future of Criminal Sentencing
- Theories of Judicial Decision Making
- Race, Class, Gender Bias in Sentencing
- The Past, Present, Future of Sentencing Research

**Readings/Assignments**
- Spohn Ch. 4 & 5
- 2nd Writing Assignment Due

## Section 4: Corrections: Penology and Prison

### Week 11 (11/13): The Prison Community
- History of Corrections in America
- The Emergence of the Prison
- Comparative Rates of Incarceration

**Readings/Assignments**
- Prisons, Ch. 1, 2
- W&P Ch. 18
- 3rd Writing Assignment Given

### Week 12 (11/20): NO CLASS – ASC MEETINGS

### Week 13 (11/27): NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

### Week 14 (12/4): Prison Administration and the Death Penalty
- Prison Administration and Prisoner Reentry
- Collateral Consequences of Imprisonment
- Death Penalty Disparities
- Quiet Rage Video! (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oC5hl1BLUiw)

**Readings/Assignments**
- W&P Ch. 17
- Prisons, Ch. 3, 4
- 3rd Writing Assignment Due

### Week 15 (12/11): In-Class Examination II