CCJS600: SEMINAR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
Fall 2019

PROFESSOR

Brian D. Johnson, Ph.D.  
2220K LeFrak Hall  
Phone: (301) 405-4709  
E-mail: bjohnso2@umd.edu

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

MEETING TIME  
Wednesday 4:00PM – 6:45PM  
Lefrak 2165E

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a required course in the 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 and several short writing assignments. Final grades will be determined according to the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>D</td>
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A 90 or higher

B 80-90

C 70-80

D 60-70

F below 60

*Pluses and Minuses with be assigned for grades within ± 2 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 50% 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, 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 (up to 3 pages) 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, critiquing its strengths, weaknesses and general contribution to the discipline.

**GRADUATE COURSE POLICIES AND GRADUATE STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Graduate School provides a guide to provide you with information about graduate course policies, other policies related to graduate study, and relevant on-campus resources. The guide at the following link applies to your graduate coursework and experience at UMD: [https://gradschool.umd.edu/course-related-policies](https://gradschool.umd.edu/course-related-policies). 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

Section 1: Overview of the Criminal Justice System

The mood and temper of the public with regard to the treatment of crime and criminals is one of the most unfailing tests of the civilization of any country. ~Winston Churchill~

Week 1 (8/28): Course Introduction
Course Readings and Expectations
On Crimes and Punishments – Context

Week 2 (9/4): The Meaning of Justice
On Crimes and Punishments – Content
Beccaria, All Chpts.

Week 3 (9/11): The Purposes of Punishment
Theories of Punishment
Philosophies of Punishment
The Creation of Law in Society
Walker, Ch. 1-3
W&P Ch. 14
Spohn Ch. 1

Week 4 (9/18): The Emergence of Modern Justice
Historical Perspective on Criminal Justice
International Perspective on Criminal Justice
An Overview of the System
Crime Rates and Crime Statistics
Walker, Ch. 4-7
W&P Ch. 2
W&P Ch. 19

Section 2: Police: Gatekeepers of the System

Police are the most visible face of government, one that people recognize and encounter with frequency ~Wes Skogan~

Week 5 (9/25): The Idea of Police
The Role of Police in Society
Historical Perspectives on Policing
Policing Research and Experimentation
Police Discretion and Decision-Making
Dunham, Ch. 1, 2, 3, 5
1st Writing Assignment Given

Week 6 (10/2): Innovations in Policing
Modern Policing Innovations
Community Oriented Policing
Problem Oriented Policing
Broken Windows & Hot Spots
COMPSTAT
Dunham Ch. 12, 22, 24, 25
W&P Ch. 20
1st Writing Assignment Due

Week 7 (10/9):
In-Class Examination I
### Section 3: Criminal Courts: Agents of Punishment

*Deciding how much to punish is an agonizing process in which conflicting aspirations compete.*

~Andrew von Hirsch~

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8 (10/16): The Development of Criminal Courts</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Rise of the Prosecutor</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS (MacArthur Grant)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Historical Perspective on the Criminal Court</td>
<td>Spohn Ch. 6 (p. 225-242)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Age of Sentencing Reform</td>
<td>W&amp;P Ch. 15</td>
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<td>Sentencing in Comparative Perspective</td>
<td>MacKenzie</td>
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<th>Week 9 (10/23): Sentencing Guidelines</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sentencing Commissions and their Guidelines</td>
<td>Spohn Ch. 7 (p. 271-314)</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Sentencing Guidelines</td>
<td>W&amp;P Ch. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Sentencing Guidelines</td>
<td>2nd Writing Assignment Given</td>
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<td>Research on Sentencing Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 10 (10/30): The Future of Criminal Sentencing</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Theories of Judicial Decision Making</td>
<td>Spohn Ch. 4 (p. 127-148)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race, Class, Gender Bias in Sentencing</td>
<td>Spohn Ch. 5 (p. 169-196)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Past, Present, Future of Sentencing Research</td>
<td>2nd Writing Assignment Due</td>
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### Section 4: Corrections: Penology and Prison

*It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.*

~Nelson Mandela~

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<th>Week 11 (11/6): The Prison Community</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History of Corrections in America</td>
<td>NAS, Ch. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Emergence of the Prison</td>
<td>W&amp;P Ch. 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative Rates of Incarceration</td>
<td>3rd Writing Assignment Given</td>
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| Week 12 (11/13): NO CLASS – ASC MEETINGS | |

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<tr>
<th>Week 13 (11/20): Prison Administration and the Death Penalty</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prison Administration and Prisoner Reentry</td>
<td>NAS, Ch. 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collateral Consequences of Imprisonment</td>
<td>W&amp;P Ch. 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death Penalty Disparities</td>
<td>3rd Writing Assignment Due</td>
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<td>Quiet Rage</td>
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| Week 14 (11/27): NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK | |

| Week 15 (12/4): | |
|-----------------| In-Class Examination II |