

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

CCJS 720

Crime and Public Policy

LeFrak 2207

Fall 2019

Professor James P. Lynch

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

LeFrak Hall 2129

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:00am-12:00 pm, 2:00—4:00 pm, or by appointment

Course Description:

This course will examine crime and public policy in the United States. We will examine a number of perennially controversial issues in criminal justice policy including firearms and violence, drugs and crime, mass incarceration, sex offending and offender re-entry. Special attention will be devoted to an examination of the role of research and empirical evidence in the policy making processes. The policy making process addresses different questions than are typically addressed by academic research and answering these questions can require different skills. Some of these questions and skills will be familiar and others less so. One purpose of this course is to introduce you to these questions and skills. A second goal of this course is to increase your familiarity with specific policy responses to enduring problems in crime and criminal justice. You have been introduced to many of these issues in CCJS 600 and how they have affected the evolution of the criminal justice system. This course will address more specific and contemporaneous policy responses. Finally, we will discuss the challenges and benefits to institutionalizing evidence based criminal justice policy in the United States.

Required Readings:

Daniel P. Mears. 2010. *American Criminal Justice Policy: An Evaluation Approach to Increasing Accountability and Effectiveness*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia, editors. 2011. *Crime and Public Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Specific readings are designated from either M or W&P below. Supplemental readings are also listed and are available on ELMS.

Course Requirements:

You will be required to make one seminar presentation, and take a midterm exam in class and a final exam which will be a take home. The seminar presentation will critically assess the empirical evidence supporting a particular policy addressing one of the policy questions presented in the seminar. This assessment should reflect familiarity with the issues raised by Mears and other readings assigned in the first section of the course. A list of potential topics will be distributed in the third week of class and a choice made by the fourth week of class. This presentation will count for 30 percent of your final grade.

A mid-term examination will be given in class on October 24. This exam will count for 30 percent of the final grade. More details regarding the specific exam format will be provided in class.

The final take home exam (approximately 15 pages) will focus on a critical evaluation of criminal justice policy. This paper will count for 30 percent of your final grade. More details regarding this final exam will be provided in class.

I expect students to come to class prepared to participate in class discussions and critique of assigned materials. Class participation will count for 10 percent of your final grade.

Academic Dishonesty and Honor Pledge:

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Honor Council.

To further exhibit your commitment to academic integrity, remember to sign the Honor Pledge on all examinations and assignments: *"I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination."*

Religious Observances:

The University System of Maryland policy provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs. Students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed

due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a documented disability who wishes to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me by September 19, 2019.

Meeting Time and Location:

This class meets on Wednesday, 4:00 to 6:45 in LeFrak Hall 2207.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week One (8/28) Introduction and Overview of the Course

Reading: M, Chapter 1 and W& P, Chapter 1

Week Two (9/4) The Role of Evidence in the Policy Making Process: Needs Evaluation, Research and Statistics

Reading: M, Chapters 2, 3, 4

Week Three (9/11) Theory and Implementation Evaluation

Reading: M, Chapters 5, and 6

Suggested list of presentation topics distributed.

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Week Four (9/18) Output, Outcome and Impact evaluation

Reading: M, Chapters 7

Robert Sampson “Gold Standard Myths: Observations on the Experimental Turn in Quantitative Criminology. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*

Donald T. Campbell and Julian Stanley *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research*. Houghton and Mifflin pp. 1-71

Choice of presentation topic submitted.

Week Five (9/25) Cost Benefit

Cohen, Mark A., The 'Cost of Crime' and Benefit-Cost Analysis of Criminal Justice Policy: Understanding and Improving Upon the State-of-the-Art (August 31, 2016). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2832944> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2832944>

“What does cost-benefit analysis add to decision making? Evidence from the criminal justice literature.” *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, June 2008, 4:117

Week Six. (10/2) Midterm

Week Seven (10/9) Firearms and Violence

Reading: W&P, Chapter 10
(First Presentations)

Limiting Access

Colin Loftin, Ph.D., David McDowall, Ph.D., Brian Wiersema, and Talbert J. Cotter, M.S. "Effects of Restrictive Licensing of Handguns on Homicide and Suicide in the District of Columbia" *N Engl J Med* 1991; 325:1615-1620 December 5, 1991 DOI: 10.1056/NEJM199112053252305

John J. Donohue, Abhay Aneja, Kyle D. Weber. Right-to-Carry Laws and Violent Crime: A Comprehensive Assessment Using Panel Data and a State-Level Synthetic Controls Analysis. NBER Working Paper No. 23510. Issued in June 2017

Project Cease fire

Anthony A. Braga David M. Kennedy Elin J. Waring, Anne Morrison Piehl
"Problem-oriented policing, deterrence, and youth violence: an evaluation of Boston's Operation Ceasefire."
"The effects of "Pulling Levers" Focused Deterrence Strategies on Crime." Campbell Collaborative Systematic Reviews

Week Eight (10/16) Race and the Administration of Justice

Reading: W&P, Chapters 4, 9
Second Presentations

Evidence of Bias

Andrew GELMAN, Jeffrey FAGAN, and Alex KISS "An Analysis of the New York City Police Department's "Stop-and-Frisk" Policy in the Context of Claims of Racial Bias"

Beck, A.J. & Blumstein, A. *J Quant Criminology* (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-017-9357-6> DOI <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-017-9357-6>

Policies to Combat Bias

Smith, Robert J. (2015) "Reducing Racially Disparate Policing Outcomes: Is implicit bias training the Answer?" *University of Hawaii Law Review*. 295

Barak, Ariel, W. Farrar, A, Sutherland (2014) "The Effects of Police Body Worn Cameras on Use of Force and Citizen's Complaints Against the Police: An RCT." *JQC*, 31, pp.509-535

The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Sources Chapter 4 National Academy of Science.

Week Nine (10/23) Drugs and Crime

Reading: W&P, Chapter 13

Third presentations

Kilmer “Policy Designs for Cannabis Legalization: Starting with the Eight Ps” *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*.

Rueter, Peter “Why Has US Drug Policy Changed So Little over 30 Years?” *Crime and Justice*. Drop the marijuana section (pp.11-21), which overlaps analytically what the Kilmer paper provides and is otherwise outdated.

Daniel W. Webster and Shani A. L. Buggs “Can an Efficacious Strategy for Curtailing Illegal Drug Sales Be Counted on to Reduce Violent Crime?” *Criminology and Public Policy* 2017

Harold A. Pollack “Efficacy Is More Effective Than It Seems.” *Criminology and Public Policy* 2017

Jessica Saunders, Michael Robbins, and Allison Ober “Moving From Efficacy to Effectiveness Implementing the Drug Market Intervention across Multiple Sites.” *Criminology and Public Policy* 2017

Peter Reuter “Learning from Replication Failure.” *Criminology and Public Policy* 2017

Week Ten (10/30) Mass Incarceration

Reading: W& P, Chapters 14 & 18 (Fourth Presentations)

Incarceration and crime reduction

Dan Nagin “Criminal Deterrence Research at the Outset of the Twenty-First Century.” *Crime and Justice A Review of Research* University of Chicago (1998)
p.1-42

Crime reduction effects. Chapter 5 in *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States*. Washington DC National Academies of Science

Incarceration and Collateral damage

Consequences for Families and Children. Chapter 9. *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States*: Washington DC National Academies of Science

The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Consequences for Communities, Chapter 10.

The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Broader Consequences Chapter 11

Week Eleven (11/6) Police, Legitimacy and Crime

Tyler, Thomas (2017) “Procedural Justice and Policing: A Rush to Judgement. Annual Review of Law and Social Science.” Vol. 13, pp. 29-53

Hagan, John and Valerie Hans (2017) “Procedural Justice Theory and Public Policy: An Exchange.” Annual Review of Law and Social Science.”, Vol. 13, pp. 1-3

Nagin, Daniel and Telep, Cody, (2017) ” Procedural Justice and Legal Compliance.” Annual Review of Law and Social Science, Vol. 13, pp. 5-28, 2017. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3059629> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.1146/annurev-lawsocsci-110316-113310>

Week Twelve (11/13)—ASC class Cancelled

Week Thirteen (11/20) Offender Re-entry and De-incarceration

Reading: W& P, Chapters 11, 17 (Fifth Presentations)

Justice Reinvestment

Elizabeth Davies, Samantha Harvell, Lindsey Cramer (2012) The Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Thinking Local for Justice Reinvestment. Washington, DC . The Urban Institute <https://www.bja.gov/Publications/UI-JRIThinkingLocal.pdf>.

William J. Sabol and Miranda L. Bauman (Forthcoming) “A Critical Review of Justice Reinvestment and the Justice Re-investment Initiative.”

Risk Assessment

John Monahan and Jennifer L. Skeem, “Risk Redux: The Resurgence of Risk Assessment in Criminal Sanctioning,” *Federal Sentencing Reporter*, vol. 26, no. 3, February 2014, p. 162 (hereinafter “Risk Redux”).

Alexander M. Holsinger. “ Implementation of Actuarial Risk/Need Assessment and its Effect on Community Supervision Revocations.” *Justice Research and Policy* First Published July 9, 2013 Research Article

Eric Silver and Lisa Miller. “A cautionary note on the use of actuarial tools for social control. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*. 48. January 2002

Note: No Class on 11/27, Thanksgiving Holiday

Week Fourteen (12/4) Challenges and Benefits to Institutionalizing Evidence Based Policy

Reading: M, Chapter, 9 and W& P, Chapters 20, 21 (Sixth Presentations)

Take Home Final Distributed

Week Fifteen (12/17) Take Home Final Due