COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to introduce students to a range of current criminal and constitutional issues. We will evaluate the legal, social, cultural, ethical and political implications of these controversial concerns. We will cover topics ranging from terrorism to the right to marry. Selected readings will frame the legal problems on center stage, allowing us to dissect the multiple layers of each issue. In order to fully explore these topics, we will consider all sides and various arguments in favor of and in opposition of the selected questions. We will mostly debate these issues by analyzing legal opinions, commentaries and academic journals. Students will ultimately become familiar with the intricacies of a myriad of legal and social dilemmas.

CLASS FORMAT

All students are expected to be prepared every class session as students will be called upon randomly to outline the cases in the text. The class will be guided by the instructors, but student participation is a key element of the class.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Mallicoat, Stacy L. and Gardiner, Christine L. Criminal Justice Policy, Sage. 2014

In addition to the textbook, students will be assigned journal articles that can be obtained via the link to the University’s library system: www.lib.umd.edu.
SYLLABUS GUIDELINES & COURSE RELATED POLICIES

The Dean for Undergraduate Studies has created a new website with a summary of important policies: http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html. Please visit this link to review the official policies on the following topics: academic integrity, student conduct, sexual misconduct, discrimination and other concerns for students.

STATEMENT ON CLASSROOM CLIMATE

The success of this class is dependent not only on my abilities and talents as an instructor to communicate information and ideas, but also on our ability as a class to work together to create an environment conducive to active learning. As a department and university, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students of opportunities to learn. The University of Maryland’s Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as “behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class.” Examples include coming late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, excessive talking, persisting in speaking without being recognized, allowing cell phones to ring, talking on a cell phone, reading text messages, sending text messages, or using a cell phone or any other electronic device for any purpose. None of this behavior will be tolerated.

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants or with me will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In this class, students will not be allowed to use their personal computers to take class notes. Students will also be prohibited from using their mp3 players, cell phones, tablets or any other type of technology during class. If these devices are seen and/or used during class, the student(s) will be asked to leave the class immediately. If these devices are seen and/or used during an exam, the exam will be collected from the student and the student will no longer be allowed to continue taking the exam. The exam score will be noted as 0.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS

In the course outline you will find dates where classes have been identified as cancelled. If for any reason a class needs to be cancelled at the last minute, a Teaching Assistant will be present in the classroom to notify the class of the cancellation and/or notice will be posted through the class email list. If for any reason the Professor or a Teaching Assistant is not present, students
should wait at least **15 minutes**. After that time has passed without the Professor or a Teaching Assistant showing up to the class, students may leave without suffering any consequences.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Official closures and delays are announced on the campus website at [http://www.umd.edu](http://www.umd.edu) and snow phone line (301-405-SNOW) as well as local radio and TV stations. If the University closes for inclement weather, then any reading assignments, written assignments or exams that were assigned for that day will be due the next class period that the University is open. If the University is opening late then the instructor will notify the class via the coursemail and on ELMS whether the instructor will either have class or cancel class.

**ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES**

Regular and consistent attendance in this class is expected from registered students. University policy excuses the absences of students for illness, religious observances, participation in University activities at the request of University authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control. Students must submit the request in writing and supply appropriate documentation.

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent for a Major Student Grading event, due to illness/injury, to furnish documentary support to the instructor. I require students to contact me by email or by phone prior to class time in which you indicate that you have an illness or an injury. You must provide written documentation of the illness from the Health Center or an outside health care provider verifying the dates of treatment and the time period during which the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. This documentation must be provided immediately upon your return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests or papers if you have not provided this documentation. Documentation not presented to me in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University’s Student Conduct Office.

If a student has missed a single lecture, Campus Senate police allows that I accept as an excused absence a self-signed note from the student. The note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under Code of Student Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness in advance. A self-signed note will not apply to missing a major Scheduled Grading Event.

**ATHLETES**

Any student participating in a school sponsored athletic program must provide a copy of their athletic calendar outlining dates when they will miss classes to the instructor by **February 3, 2017**.
RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

While the University does excuse absences for religious observances, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance and prior notification is especially important in connection with final examinations, since failure to reschedule a final examination before the conclusion of the final examination period may result in loss of credits during the semester. Therefore, by February 3, 2017, students must provide me in writing a request for a make-up exam if I have indicated a date on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance on a specific date. Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance. Please remember that accommodations are NOT made for travel to and from the religious observance.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form, which has been updated for the Spring 2017 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than February 3, 2017. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS after February 3, 2017.

ELMS

The University of Maryland now uses Canvas via Enterprise Learning Management Systems, (ELMS). The ELMS website is www.elms.umd.edu. We will use ELMS in this course for posting grades, class announcements and class notes. After assignments are due and exams are given, grades will be posted on ELMS in a reasonable period of time. The instructor will also post class notes on ELMS for students to review. It should be noted that while notes will be posted, these notes are only a sketch of what will be discussed in class and are not to be considered a replacement for attending class and taking notes for oneself.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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 of the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html
The following statement must be signed and/or written on every exam and assignment: “I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (or assignment).”

COPYRIGHT

Legally, course materials such as written or recorded lectures and Power Point presentations are copyright protected and the ability to copy and distribute course materials unless it is for personal use and with instructor’s permission is illegal.

The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

LATE POLICY

This class begins at 11:00 am and ends at 11:50 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. When papers are due in class, students are to be present to turn in their assignments at the class start time. Once I begin teaching class, I will not accept any papers.

We will have quizzes on designated dates. The quiz will take place at some time during the class. It could be at the beginning of class or towards the end of class. Once the first student has turned in the quiz, no other student will be allowed to take the quiz.

We will have a midterm and a final exam on designated dates. Once the first student has turned in the exam, no other student will be allowed to take the exam.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS

Your feedback about this course is very important to me and therefore we do several forms of evaluations throughout this semester. One important campus-wide evaluation is the online evaluation at the end of the semester. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations.
ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Reading Assignments:** Each student is responsible for reading assignments as outlined below and being fully prepared to participate in classroom discussions. While much of our reading derives from our text, other readings will be posted on ELMS.

2. **Participation:** Class attendance and participation are expected. Students must be prepared to participate in both formal and informal debates. Reflection papers, assigned and completed in-class, will contribute to a student’s participation grade.

3. **Exams:** Two exams (Midterm and Final) will be given based on material from the text, supplemental readings, lectures and in-class discussion. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** will be given unless a legitimate and documented excuse plus notification to me prior to the exam are given, and the exam must be made up within one week of the missed examination.

4. **Debate:** Every student will be placed in a debate group, selected by the instructor, and given a topic to which all group members must contribute. A separate handout will be provided to the class identifying the specific requirements of the debates.

5. **Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given based on a schedule provided by the Professor, and the quizzes will be based on the debate topics and materials.

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debate</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

97-100 = A+; 93-96 = A; 90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-
Less than 60 = F

This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor’s discretion. All changes will be announced at the beginning of class. Please read the assigned chapter(s) by the date noted.

All assignments in **BOLD** are Major Scheduled Grading Events.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Week 1  Introduction and Overview of the Course
1/25-1/27  Importance of the Bill of the Rights

Chapter 1: The Politics and Policy Dichotomy

Week 2  Chapter 2: The Influence of Crime and the Policy Making Process
1/30-2/3  Chapter 3: Street-Level Bureaucracy: From Policy to Practice

Week 3  Chapter 4: Policing High-Risk Places
2/6-2/10

Week 4  Chapter 5: Homeland Security: A New Criminal Justice Mandate
2/13-2/17  Chapter 6: Immigrants and Crime

Week 5  Chapter 7: Mandatory Arrest and Intimate Partner Violence
2/20-2/24  Debate 1 (2/22)
Week 6  Chapter 8: From “Just Say No!” to “Well, Maybe” ---The War on Drugs and Sensible Alternatives
2/27-3/3  Debate 2 (3/1)

Week 7  Chapter 9: Controlling the Sexual Offender
3/6-3/10  Debate 3 (3/8)

Week 8  Chapter 10: Public Policy and White-Collar and Corporate Crime

Week 9  SPRING BREAK
3/20-3/24

Week 10  Chapter 11: America’s “War on Gangs”: Response to a Real Threat or a Moral Panic
3/27-3/31  Midterm (3/31)
Week 11  Chapter 12: Juvenile Waiver Policies
4/3-4/7  Chapter 13: Criminal Justice Responses to the Mentally Ill

Week 12  Chapter 14: Gender Responsive Practices
4/10-4/14 Chapter 15: Restorative Practices
            Debate 5 (4/12)

Week 13  Chapter 16: Three Strikes: Passage, Implementation, Evaluation, and
4/17-4/21 Reform
            Debate 6 (4/19)

Week 14  Chapter 17: The Supermax: Issues and Challenges
4/24-4/28 Chapter 18: Capital Punishment
            Debate 7 (4/26)

Week 15  Chapter 19: Reentry and Rehabilitation: Generating Successful
5/1-5/5  Outcomes During Challenging Times
            Debate 8 (5/3)

Week 16  Chapter 20: Emerging Issues in Criminal Justice Policy
5/8-5/10