CCJS 498: The Politics of Criminal Justice
Spring 2017

Thu. 3:30-6:00

Instructor
Dr. Laszlo Korossy
korossyl@umbc.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Introduction
Welcome to CCJS 498, The Politics of Criminal Justice. Over the course of the semester, we will be discussing a wide variety of topics having to do with the political and social context of policing and criminal justice in the United States of America. Justice does not occur in a vacuum, and without understanding the various pressures exerted upon it by the currents of society, we cannot hope to understand its unique challenges, its failures and successes, and its opportunities for improvement - or collapse.

Grades will be calculated based on two written assignments, a presentation, and class participation. This latter grade will be based on an online component, wherein you will post two one-paragraph reflections (one on in-class material, one on assigned readings) on the course’s ELMS site, which will all be also turned in as a single document at the end of the semester.

Two classes may be missed without excuse until grading is affected; afterward, each missed class will result in a full letter grade deduction. Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of every class. All assignments are to be turned in as hard copies, unless arrangements are made otherwise beforehand.

Disclaimers
UMD policies relevant to undergraduate courses may be found at http://ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will be prosecuted.

Required Texts
Readings will be required throughout the semester, but will be provided online. There is no required textbook.
Grading Breakdown
Class Participation  25%
Short Paper  25%
Term Paper  50%

Syllabus

Weeks 1-2
The Policymaking Process

Week 3
The Constitution and Criminal Justice

Week 4
The Left/Right Divide

Week 5
Cities and Crime

Week 6
Criminal Policing in American Cities

Week 7
The Politics of Race and Class

Week 8
First Paper Due
The Police and the Culture

Week 9
SPRING BREAK

Week 10
Criminal Politics: Corruption and Terrorism

Week 11
The Courts and the Prisons

Week 12-13
MOVIE: Twelve Angry Men

Week 14-15
PRESENTATIONS

Week 16
Second Paper Due
Conclusions