Pro-Seminar in Criminal Justice  
CRIM 601  
University of Pennsylvania  
Spring 2020

Lecture  
Wednesday, 3:30-6:30  
1 Williams Hall

Instructor  
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Course Description  
This course provides an overview of what we know about crime and the criminal justice system in the United States and other developed nations. The purpose of the course is to increase your knowledge about how the U.S. criminal justice system works but we will also spend a great deal of time thinking about the quality of the available evidence and how we know what we know. This is a companion course to CRIM 634 which many of you will have taken last semester with Professor Ouss – to that end, we will focus on topics that were not covered in that course.

Course Readings  
There is no textbook for the course. Each class has several assigned readings which I will make available on Canvas or by providing a URL to a website where the reading may be found. The readings are predominantly academic journal articles from the fields of criminology, economics, sociology, law, public health, medicine and statistics. However, there is also a mix of news articles from respected outlets such as the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, book chapters from edited volumes and policy briefs written for policymakers. Some of the journal articles are fairly technical – we will spend some time in lecture clarifying some of the more technical material you will encounter.

Evaluation  
Your course grade will be based on three group-based presentations, class participation and a policy memo.

- Discussion Leader for a Day – You will sign up to kick-start our class discussions three times during the semester. Along with 1-2 colleagues, you will prepare a 30-minute presentation on the assigned readings for the week. The expectation is that these presentations will be thoughtful, careful and thorough. [50%]

- Class Participation – As this is a seminar class, your participation is critical to the successful execution of the class. Regular participation is expected and the overall quality of your contributions will be an important component of your final grade. [30%]

- Policy Memo – You will prepare a short policy memo on a topic of your choosing. [20%]
Academic Integrity
Students are expected to abide by the University of Pennsylvania Code of Academic Integrity, which is contained below. Additional information about expected standards of intellectual honesty can be found here: http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/index.html

Since the University is an academic community, its fundamental purpose is the pursuit of knowledge. Essential to the success of this educational mission is a commitment to the principles of academic integrity. Every member of the University community is responsible for upholding the highest standards of honesty at all times. Students, as members of the community, are also responsible for adhering to the principles and spirit of the following Code of Academic Integrity.

Academic Dishonesty Definitions
Activities that have the effect or intention of interfering with education, pursuit of knowledge, or fair evaluation of a student’s performance are prohibited. Examples of such activities include but are not limited to the following definitions:

A. Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, material, or study aids in examinations or other academic work or preventing, or attempting to prevent, another from using authorized assistance, material, or study aids. Example: using a cheat sheet in a quiz or exam, altering a graded exam and resubmitting it for a better grade, etc.

B. Plagiarism: Using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific or proper acknowledgment. Example: copying another person’s paper, article, or computer work and submitting it for an assignment, cloning someone else’s ideas without attribution, failing to use quotation marks where appropriate, etc.

C. Fabrication: Submitting contrived or altered information in any academic exercise. Example: making up data for an experiment, fudging data, citing nonexistent articles, contriving sources, etc.

D. Multiple submissions: submitting, without prior permission, any work submitted to fulfill another academic requirement.

E. Misrepresentation of academic records: Misrepresenting or tampering with or attempting to tamper with any portion of a student’s transcripts or academic record, either before or after coming to the University of Pennsylvania. Example: forging a change of grade slip, tampering with computer records, falsifying academic information on one’s resume, etc.

F. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Knowingly helping or attempting to help another violate any provision of the Code. Example: working together on a take-home exam, etc.

G. Unfair Advantage: Attempting to gain unauthorized advantage over fellow students in an academic exercise. Example: gaining or providing unauthorized access to examination materials, obstructing or interfering with another student’s efforts in an academic exercise, lying about a need for an extension for an exam or paper, continuing to write even when time is up during an exam, destroying or keeping library materials for one’s own use., etc.

* If a student is unsure whether his action(s) constitute a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity, then it is that student’s responsibility to consult with the instructor to clarify any ambiguities.
Topics Covered and Reading List

Class #1: Introduction to the U.S. Criminal Justice System / Crime in the United States


➢ The Nation's Two Crime Measures, Department of Justice, 2004, NCJ 122705.

➢ Uniform Crime Reports, UCR Handbook, 2004 [read p. 7-40]


Class #2: Evaluating Empirical Evidence – Research Design in the Social Sciences


Class #3a: Money, Poverty and Crime


Class #3b: Neighborhood Conditions and Crime


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Class #4a: “Broken Windows” Policing


Class #4b: Is there a “Ferguson effect?”


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Class #5a: Measuring Police Discrimination


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Class #5b: Police Use of Force


  - http://datacolada.org/50

- Blog Post: Feldman, Justin. “Roland Fryer is Wrong: There is Racial Bias in Shootings by Police,” July 12, 2016.
Class #6a: Strategies to Reduce Police Violence I.


Class #6b: Strategies to Reduce Police Violence II.


- Special Guest Speaker: Li Sian Goh

Class #7a: Predictive Policing


### Class #7b: Policing Domestic Violence


### Class #8a: Place-Based Crime Interventions: Street Lighting


Class #8b: Other Place-Based Crime Interventions


Special Guest Speaker: Ruth Moyer

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Class #9a: Does punishment work?


Class #9b: Capital Punishment in the United States


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Class #10a: Bail and Pre-Trial Detention

  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bail_in_the_United_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bail_in_the_United_States)


Class #10b: Race in the Criminal Justice System


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Class #11a: Alcohol Abuse and Crime


➢ Special Guest Speaker: Rachel Ryley (Wharton Applied Economics)

Class #11b: The Opioid Epidemic


Class #12a: Ex-Offenders and the Labor Market

  - http://www.realclearpolicy.com/articles/2016/12/15/more_job_opportunities_less_recidivism.html


Class #12b: Immigration Enforcement and Crime


Class #13: TBD