
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY - North American Studies
Tampereen Yliopisto**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLICY

Fall, 2009
Tue 12:00-14:00
NAM-4 (A3, S3 History)
Office Hours: T 14:00-15:00

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PROSPECTUS

The course, Criminal Justice and Policy is designed to approach the topic of crime and criminal behavior using new perspectives. A traditional approach to crime treats the criminal as a deviant. While this focus is useful, it ignores cases in which the criminal makes well-informed, rational decisions. By treating criminals as rational actors, we can identify factors that influence their decisions and design policy to create disincentives for criminal behavior. This course provides an introduction to the functioning of the American criminal policy. In particular, we will explore the effects of current policy on criminal behavior and will attempt to find better alternatives.

Class meetings: The class will meet once a week for two hours. Meetings will involve both lectures and discussions. Students should complete the reading assigned in the syllabus before each meeting. Occasional homework will be assigned in class. The majority of each class period will be devoted to a discussion of the main ideas encountered in the reading and in the news and students are expected to participate in the discussions.

Assigned reading: The book to be used is cited below. Occasionally, additional assignments will be announced. Current Events will be incorporated into the course discussions and the papers. Students should read a good newspaper in addition to the text. Suggested sources: *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*.

Sieberg, Katri K., 2005. *Criminal Dilemmas: Understanding and Preventing Crime*, Second Edition, Springer Verlag.

Exam: There will be two exams for the class, a midterm and a final. They will both be held in class and will be graded on the basis of 100 points.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism and cheating are serious infractions. "Plagiarism usually comes in two forms, unintentional and intentional. The first occurs when students fail to cite the work they use because of oversight or ignorance of the proper procedure. The second occurs when students deliberately try to cheat by passing off another's work as their own, for example changing a few words of a passage to make it appear less identical. Neither form of plagiarism is acceptable. Plagiarism deemed intentional by the instructor will result in an automatic failing grade for the course, irrespective of one's other work. Plagiarism deemed unintentional will result in an automatic grade of 0 (zero) for an assignment, and a second instance will lead to an automatic failing grade for the course." (Krasno Syllabus, 2009) Remember, for any idea

that you use from a source, provide an internal citation. If you use the exact words from a source, you must put it in quotes and then give an internal citation.

Grades: Grades will be weighted in the following manner: Midterm 45%, Final 55%.

SYLLABUS

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| Week 1 | (1 Sept) | COURSE INTRODUCTION |
| Week 2 | (15 Sept) | CRIMINAL JUSTICE – THE SYSTEM Read: Packer Article (Online). |
| Week 3 | (22 Sept) | ECONOMICS AS A TOOL IN CRIME Read: <u>Dilulio, John J. Jr.</u> , "Help Wanted: Economists, Crime and Public Policy," <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> , Vol. 10, No. 1, Winter, 1996. (Available on JSTOR) |
| Week 4 | (29 Sept) | ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING The Prison System, Violent Crime Read: <u>Economist article</u> . |
| Week 5 | (6 Oct) | POLICY Read: <u>Sieberg, Ch.1.</u> <u>Freeman, Richard B.</u> , "Why Do So Many Young American Men Commit Crimes and What Might We Do About It?" <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> , Vol. 10, No. 1, Winter, 1996. (JSTOR) |
| Week 6 | (13 Oct) | Midterm |
| Week 7 | (27 Oct) | PRIVATE PRISONS Read: <u>Sieberg, Ch 2</u> |
| Week 8 | (3 Nov) | PROSTITUTION Read: <u>Sieberg, CH. 3.</u> |
| Week 9 | (10 Nov) | DRUGS Read: <u>Sieberg, CH. 4.</u> Klein article, Time. |
| Week 10 | (17 Nov) | POLICE CORRUPTION Read: <u>Sieberg, CH. 7.</u> Birch Article, Laycayo Article. Online |
| Week 11 | (24 Nov) | GANGS Read: <u>Sieberg, chapter 5</u> <u>Levitt, S.D, and S.A. Venkatesh</u> , "An Economic Analysis of A Drug-Selling Gang's Finances," Working Paper 6592, National Bureau of Economic Research, June, 1998. Available Online. |

Week 12 (1 Dec) GUNS
Read: Sieberg, chapter 6

Week 13 (8 Dec) Final Exam
