Critical Analysis of Justice Administration
CJ 530-03
Wednesday 1500-1750
Fall 2007

Location: CJC A-181

Professor: Dr. Willard M. Oliver

Office Hours: Office C 121, W & Th 0900 -1100 & by appointment

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Course Description: An analysis of the criminal justice system in the United States; role of justice agencies as part of societal response to crime; the knowledge base of criminal justice; issues, problems, trends.

Goals & Objectives:
1. Develop an overview of the Criminal Justice system
2. Develop a working knowledge of seminal research in CRJU
3. Develop a working knowledge of contemporary research in CRJU
4. Introduce concepts for other CRJU courses
5. Develop an understanding of research and CRJU policy
6. Enhance reading comprehension and both oral and writing skills
7. Develop understanding of research design

Textbooks:

Required:


Academic Politics and the History of Criminal Justice Education. Frank
Morn. Greenwood.


Recommended:

Fulfilling a Mandate. Mitchel Roth. SHSU Press.


Readings: All of the readings are available through electronic reserve via the SHSU Library homepage. Access electronic reserves, CJ 530, Oliver and utilize the password “lawandorder” The articles are organized by the appropriate numbered week (see below).

Attendance & Punctuality: As it is a graduate course this should go without saying.

E-mail Etiquette: While I encourage your contacting me via e-mail, all correspondence in this manner must meet standard guidelines of professional writings. Formality, punctuation, capitalization, etc., must all be properly observed.

Class Etiquette: The class room is for learning, please do not bring food (drinks are acceptable). Turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc. upon entering class. If life outside of the classroom is more important than the class, please do not attend class.

Class Preparation & Participation: It should also go without saying that, students are required to have read assigned material before coming to class and to participate in classroom discussions or small group activities. As this is a substantial part of your grade and the premise of the class, discussion, you must come prepared.

Assignments: Throughout the semester, each week, on a rotating basis, each student will have due in my office by 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday each week
either a 3-5 page paper (DS) or 1 page list of questions (SS). The paper should quickly review the weeks reading then reflect on the writing and pose questions, alternative hypotheses, and or question underlying assumptions. The questions should consist of five well thought out questions that probe deeply into issues presented within the readings (in other words, one sentence questions won’t cut it). They may be e-mailed as an attachment. Please scan for viruses on your computer. I will not acknowledge individual receipt, but you may program your computer for me to click on “OK” in an acknowledged receipt e-mail through your e-mail software.

Research Design: A research design paper, providing a title, introduction, literature review, and methodology section will be due by the end of the semester. The design must be theory based, must consist of a hypothesis or hypotheses, and it must be feasible. The paper is due Dec. 5, 2007.

Final Exam: As this is a seminar course, there will be no final examination. However, we will meet during final exam hours (Weds. Dec. 12, 2007 from 1500-1750) for paper presentations.

Grade Weights: Participation = 20%
Research Design = 40%
Assignments = 30%
Presentation = 10%

Academic Policies:

ACADEMIC HONESTY: http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS: http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY: http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday

Course Outline:
Week 1 - Introduction - August 22

Introductions
Syllabus Review
Discuss Research Design
Assignment for Sep. 26th - UCR & NCVS

Week 2 - Criminal Justice the Discipline - August 29


Week 3 - Criminal Justice Theory - September 5

Kraska, Peter B. *Theorizing Criminal Justice; Eight Essential Orientations*. Waveland. All.


Week 4 - Criminal Justice Research - September 12

Alpert and MacDonald’s *Understanding Social Science Research: Applications in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Waveland. Chapter 1 & 3.


**Week 5 - Research Design - September 19**


**Week 6 - Crime - (Note: Assignment due this day) - September 26**
Bureau of Justice Website - NCVS Data
Federal Bureau of Investigations - UCR Data


*The Crime Drop in America.* Edited by Blumstein and Wallman. Cambridge Press, ALL.


**Week 7 - No Class SWACJ Conference - October 3**

I encourage your attendance at this conference from October 4-6. It will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas.

**Week 8 - Criminal Justice - October 10**

Gary LaFree. *Losing Legitimacy*. ALL.


**Week 9 - Policing - October 17**


**Week 10 - Courts - October 24**


Alexis De Toqueville. 1831. Excerpts from *Democracy in America.*


**Week 11 - Corrections - October 31**

Austin and Irwin. *It’s About Time - ALL.*


**Week 12 - Crime Prevention - November 7**


**Week 13 - Criminal Justice Policy - November 14**

Samuel Walker - Sense and Nonsense About Crime and Drugs. ALL


**Week 14 - Thanksgiving Break - November 21**

**Week 15 - Research Design Presentation - November 28**

**Week 16 - Research Design Presentations - December 5**

Research Design Paper is Due.

**Week 17 - (Final Exam period) Research Design Presentations - Dec. 12**

**Electronic Reserves Book Display Note**

There are several books whose selections had to be broken up to display at different times, as the amount of material exceeded 10%. This is how I broke them up:

1. Under Week 4, the selections from Themes and Variations in Community
Policing cannot display at the same time. "Community Policing in Savannah, GA" will end Oct. 12, and "Appendix..." will begin Oct. 12. (Oct. 12 is the middle of the semester).

2. Under Week 9, the 5 selections from Classics in Policing have been divided up. The following will display until Oct. 12:
"The Rand Study of Detectives..."
"The Asshole"

The following will display starting Oct. 12:
"The Watchman Style..."
"The Kansas City Preventative Patrol..."
"The Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment..."

3. Under Week 13, the Crime and Punishment selections have been divided. The following will display until Oct. 12:
"Introduction..."
"Conclusion..."

The following will display starting Oct. 12:
"Alternatives III:...(Ch.5)"

Also from Week 13, the Thinking About Crime selections have been divided. The following will display until Oct. 12:
"Introduction..."
"Chapter 3..."

The following will display starting Oct. 12:
"Chapter 12..."
"Chapter 13..."

Also from Week 13, the Rich Get Richer selections have been divided. They will display as follows:
"Chapter 1...Part 1" - now - Sept. 14
"Chapter 1...Part 2" - Sept. 14 - Oct. 12
"Conclusion..." - Oct. 12 - end of semester