Social Policy  
CJ 661-1  
Monday 1200-1450  
Spring 2008

Location: CJC A213
Professor: Dr. Willard M. Oliver
Office: C121
Office Hours: M & T 0900 -1100 & by appointment
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Course Description: Evaluation of the legal, social, economic, philosophic, and controversial issues of governmental programs, administered by federal, state, local units of government, and the client systems served.

Goals & Objectives: 1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the Public Policy System as it related to criminal justice.
2. Develop a working knowledge of both seminal and contemporary research in Public Policy
3. Integrate the theory of public policy with those of the criminal justice discipline.
4. Introduce concepts of Social Policy as applied to criminal justice.
5. Develop an comprehensive understanding of research in criminal justice policy.
6. Enhance reading comprehension and both oral and writing skills.
7. Develop a greater understanding of research design.

Textbooks:

Required:


Readings: All of the readings are available through electronic reserve via the SHSU Library homepage. Access electronic reserves, CJ 661, Oliver and utilize the password “ideology” The articles are organized by the appropriate numbered week (see below). In addition, the professor may add additional readings for a specific week throughout the semester, but these articles will be given at least one week in advance and the professor will furnish each student a hard copy.

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

E-mail Etiquette: While I encourage you to contact me via e-mail, all correspondence in this manner must meet standard guidelines of professional writing (e.g., formality, punctuation, capitalization, etc.).

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.

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 there will be written assignments. These are intended to ensure that the student is reading, comprehending what they have read, and developing critical analysis skills. The assignments will typically require a 3-5 page paper, typed and double-spaced. 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 (+ content analysis of a policy-related database) paper based on a public policy topic related to criminal justice will be due at the end of the semester. The research design paper will include a title, abstract, introduction, literature review, and
methodology section. The design must be theory based, consist of a hypothesis(es), and it must be feasible. Pre approval is required and proposal finalized by Feb. 25, 2008. The paper is due May 5, 2008 - the last day of class.

Policy Databases: Vanderbilt Television Archive
http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/

Library of Congress
http://www.thomas.gov/

American National Election Studies
http://www.electionstudies.org/

Policy Agenda Project
http://www.policyagendas.org/

Other Databases with approval of Professor.

Grade Weights: Participation = 20%
Research Design = 40%
Assignments = 40%

Final Exam: The final exam date is scheduled for May 12, 2008 from 2-4 p.m.

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#holiday
Course Outline/Readings:

Week 1 – January 15 - Martin Luther King Holiday

Week 2 – January 28 – Basic Government
Constitution of the United States. (Available on-line)
Federalist Papers Numbers 10, 17, & 51. (Available on-line)
   This is in four parts and will display as follows: Part 1 Jan. 2-25, Part II Jan. 25-28, Part
   III Jan. 29-31, Part IV Jan 31- ?
Marion & Oliver. Chapter 1

Week 3 – February 4 - Define Social Policy, Public Policy, & Crime Policy
Gest.  Crime & Politics.  Chapters 1-4
   Law and theSocial Order 3: 583-638.
   Street Crime: Principles, Questions, and Cautions.” Annals of the American Academy of
   Political and Social Science 543: 103-115.
Week 4 – February 11 - Ideology, Party Identification, & Policy Types

Marion & Oliver.  Chapter 2


Displays in two parts:  Part I Jan. 15 – Feb. 4, Part II Feb. 5 - ?


Week 5 – February 18 - (Crime) Issues and (Crime) Policymaking

Kingdon.  Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies.  2nd edition.  ALL

Marion & Oliver.  Chapter 3


Week 6 – February 25 - Agenda Setting (Research Design Proposals Due)

Baumgartner & Jones.  Agendas and Instability in American Politics.  ALL


Week 7 – March 3 – Research Design Papers

Week 8 – March 10 – Spring Break

Week 9 – March 17 - Executive Branch

Oliver.  The Law & Order Presidency.  ALL

Marion & Oliver.  Chapter 4


**Week 10 – March 24 – Legislative Branch**

Marion & Oliver. Chapter 5.


**Week 11 – March 31 – Judicial Branch & Bureaucracy – the 4th Branch of Government**

*Judicial*

Marion & Oliver. Chapter 6.


_Bureaucracy_

Marion & Oliver. Chapter 7.


**Week 12 – April 7 - Research Design Papers**

**Week 13 – April 14 – Public Opinion and the Media**

Marion & Oliver. Chapter 8.


Chadee, Derek; Ditton, Jason. (2005). Fear of crime and the media: Assessing the lack of
Week 14 – April 21 – Interest Groups & Policy Formulation, Implementation, Evaluation & Change

Interest Groups

Marion & Oliver. Chapter 9.


Policy Formulation, Implementation, & Evaluation

Marion & Oliver. Chapter 14.


Week 15 – April 28 - Crime Policy

Gest. Crime & Politics. Chapters 5-11
Marion & Oliver. Chapter 10-13.


**Week 16 – May 5 – Paper Presentations**