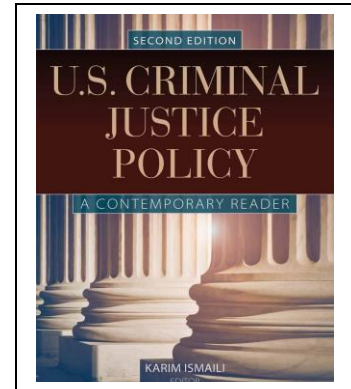


Course Syllabus
CRIM 5303 Law & Policy
Fall 2025
Durant Frantzen, Ph.D.

Course Overview

This course provides student with a multidisciplinary overview of key institutions, processes, and policy issues regarding crime and justice. Using a variety of materials and approaches, students will be introduced to key debates in the law, policing, courts, and corrections, as well as more specialty issues and areas relevant to justice, law, and policy. We will identify and discuss current dilemmas faced by stakeholders and criminal justice institutions.



Required Textbook

Ismaili, K. (Ed.). (2017). U.S. criminal justice policy: A contemporary reader (2nd ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Additional Readings may be assigned by the instructor.

Course Assessment

The final grade will be assessed based on your performance on the following: Similar to most graduate level classes, this is a reading intensive class.

Reading Analyses (120 points):

Each week students will submit a critical analysis of the assigned readings. Students must read all the assigned readings but are to choose one of the articles to analyze. These assignments should be approximately 1-2 pages, double-spaced, and address the main issues discussed in the articles. Include a cover sheet listing the titles of the articles you selected, along with your name. You are required to select and quote 2-3 statements from the article and reflect on them in your paper. I am not looking for a summary of the article but an analysis of the implications or conclusions from each article. Please include the APA reference for each article. Each article is listed below in the calendar along with a link to it. You may need to log into the library databases (CJ Abstracts) to gain access to the full article. Due dates are Sundays of each week (11:59pm). Submit your assignments in the drop box for the respective week.

Weekly Discussion Board (120 points):

Your discussion posts should be based on factual information from the readings or articles and not personal opinions. All discussions should be supported with details from the readings. Due dates for all discussion forums are on Blackboard.

- You are required to participate in the discussion board every week. There will be 12 graded discussion board activities for the entire semester.
- In a discussion board forum, you are to write a 200 minimum word response to the questions/situation/topic given. You are encouraged to draw upon current events to support your responses. You are then to read the posts of other students and choose ONE post to provide feedback on.
- Your first post must be made before 11:59 pm on Thursdays and the final post (a response to another classmate's post) can be made at any time before Sundays at 11:59 pm.
- Your feedback to the posting of another classmate should be a minimum of 50 words and contain a probing question. What is a probing question? See this link for examples of probing questions: <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/probing-questions>. Discussion posts will be graded with the rubric posted in Blackboard.

Current Events Paper (100 points): Students will write a research paper based on a set of interrelated current events coalescing about some type of crime policy. You can get ideas for topics from the weekly readings. The paper should be 12 to 15 written pages (double-spaced), excluding a title and reference page in APA Format (please note the title, abstract, and reference page in APA format do not count towards the 12 to 15 pages). More information on the format for this assignment along with a grading rubric will be posted in Blackboard.

Annotated Bibliography (60 points):

The annotated bibliography should be based on 6 of the required articles that students will use to develop their research paper. An example of an annotated bibliography, along with feedback from a librarian, can be found here:

<https://libguides.sonoma.edu/c.php?g=202672&p=1354271>. You are likely to find other examples of annotated bibliographies online as well. Feel free to peruse, and if you have any questions about the required format let me know.

Final Grades

Any issues regarding an assigned grade must be brought to my attention before the date of the final examination. Do not wait until the last minute! You will know exactly what your final term grade should be before it is assigned because you will know the grades of every assignment/examination/etc. This syllabus also states the value of each assignment toward your final term grade.

Grading Requirements

Reading Summaries (12)	120 pts
Discussion Boards (12)	120 pts
Annotated Bibliography	60 pts
Final Research Paper	100 pts
Total	400 pts

<u>Point Range</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
360-400	90-100%	A
320-359	80-89%	B
280-319	70-79%	C
240-279	60-69%	D
239 or less	59% and below	F

Late or Missing Assignment Policy

Generally, I do not accept work that is submitted late. However, I do realize that emergencies happen. If you are unable to submit an assignment on time please reach out to me to discuss options for submitting late or missing work. In most cases, a point deduction commensurate with the time past due will apply (10%, 20%, etc.). This policy is fair to all students.

Course Evaluation

Your feedback about this course is very valuable to me. Please complete the anonymous Student Instructional Rating survey when available through your email.

Course Schedule

Week 1: 8/25 – 8/31 First Week of Classes

1. Module 1 – Meet your Professor
2. Review the syllabus
3. Participate in the discussion
4. Become familiar with the class on Blackboard

Week 2: 9/1 – 9/7 Module 2 – Justice, Law, and Policy: An Introduction

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate on the Discussion Board

Readings

- Chapter 1 from the textbook – Thinking about criminal justice policy: Process, players, and politics
- Brownstein, H. H. (2007). From an Editorial Board Member: How criminologists as researchers can contribute to social policy and practice. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 18(2), 119–131. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0887403406297328>
- Frost, N. A. (2010). Beyond public opinion polls: Punitive public sentiment and criminal justice policy. *Sociology Compass*, 4(3), 156–168. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1751-9020.2009.00269.x>
- Zajac, G. (2002). Knowledge creation, utilization and public policy: How do we know what we know in Criminology? *Criminology & Public Policy*, 1(2), 251–254. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-9133.2002.tb00089.x>

Week 3: 9/8 – 9/14 Module 3 – Policy Making in the Criminal Justice System

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board

Readings

- Brancale, J., Blomberg, T. G., Siennick, S., Pesta, G. B., Swagar, N., Noorman, K., Caswell, J., & Chouhy, C. (2021). Building collaborative evidence-based frameworks for criminal justice policy. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 32(8), 795–815. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08874034211011234>
- Stolz, B. A. (2015). The growth of federal criminal justice policy making: The role of U.S. civil rights legislation. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 26(5), 463–487. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0887403414523648>
- Stolz, B. A. (2002). The roles of interest groups in US criminal justice policy making: Who, when, and how. *Criminal Justice*, 2(1), 51–69. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17488958020020010301>

Week 4: 9/15 – 9/21 Module 4 – Law Enforcement: Policies and Procedures- Part 1

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board

Readings

- Chapter 2 – The significance of race in contemporary urban policing policy.
- Chapter 10 – Homeland security policy and criminal justice following 9/11
- Bishopp, S. A., Klinger, D. A., & Morris, R. G. (2015). An Examination of the effect of a policy change on police use of TASERS. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 26(7), 727–746. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0887403414543558>
- Jennings, J. T., & Rubado, M. E. (2017). Preventing the use of deadly force: The relationship between police agency policies and rates of officer-involved gun deaths. *Public Administration Review*, 77(2), 217–226. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.12738>

Week 5: 9/22 – 9/28 Module 5 – Law Enforcement: Policies and Procedures- Part 2

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board

Readings

- Nix, J., Pickett, J. T., Wolfe, S. E., & Campbell, B. A. (2017). Demeanor, race, and police perceptions of procedural justice: evidence from two randomized experiments. *Justice Quarterly*, 34(7), 1154–1183.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2017.1334808>
- Ritchie, A. J., & Jones-Brown, D. (2017). Policing race, gender, and sex: A Review of law enforcement policies. *Women & Criminal Justice*, 27(1), 21–50.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08974454.2016.1259599>
- Weisburd, D., Telep, C. W., Vovak, H., Zastrow, T., Braga, A. A., & Turchan, B. (2022). Reforming the police through procedural justice training: A multicity randomized trial at crime hot spots. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - PNAS*, 119(14), e2118780119–e2118780119.
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2118780119>.

Week 6: 9/29 – 10/5 Module 6 – Law and Policy: The U.S. Court System

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board

Readings

- Chapter 5 – Procedural fairness, criminal justice policy, and the courts
- Chapter 6 – Criminal justice policy and problem-solving courts
- Gest, T. (2018). The courts in a fragmented criminal justice system. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 17(2), 309–320. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12373>

Week 7: 10/6 – 10/12 Module 7 – Sentencing Laws and Policies

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board

Readings

- Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2023). Sentencing decisions for persons in federal prison for drug offenses, 2013–2018. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/sdpfpdo1318.pdf>
- King, R.D. and Light, M. T. (2019). Have racial and ethnic disparities in sentencing declined? *Crime and Justice*, 48, 365-437.
- Spohn, C. (2014). Twentieth-century sentencing reform movement: Looking backward, moving forward. *Criminology and Public Policy*, 13, 535-545.
- Zhang, Y., Maxwell, C. D., and Vaughn, M.S. (2009). The impact of state sentencing policies on the U.S. prison population. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 37, 190-199.

Week 8: 10/13 – 10/19 Module 8 – Race, Special Populations, and Criminal Justice Policies

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board

Readings

- Goshin, L. S., Arditti, J. A., Dallaire, D. H., Shlafer, R. J., & Hollihan, A. (2017). An international human rights perspective on maternal criminal justice involvement in the United States. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 23(1), 53–67.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000101>
- Mauer, M. (2004). Race, class, and the development of criminal justice policy. *The Review of Policy Research*, 21(1), 79–92. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1541-1338.2004.00059.x>
- Peay, P. C. (2024). The people's intervention: How #BlackLivesMatter circumvented a culture of congruent criminal justice policies in American states. *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, 9(1), 123–156.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/rep.2023.40>.
- Updegrave, A. H., Boisvert, D. L., Cooper, M. N., & Gabbidon, S. L. (2021). Criminological explanations, race, and biological attributions of crime as predictors of Philadelphia area residents' support for criminal justice policies. *Crime and Delinquency*, 67(3), 319–343. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128720931437>

Week 9: 10/20 – 10/26 Module 9 – Juvenile Justice Policies

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board
3. Annotated Bibliography due by Sunday, November 3 at 11:59 pm

Readings

- Chapter 9 – The U.S. juvenile justice policy landscape
- Monahan, K., Steinberg, L., & Piquero, A. R. (2015). Juvenile justice policy and practice: A developmental perspective. *Crime and Justice (Chicago, Ill.)*, 44(1), 577–619. <https://doi.org/10.1086/681553>
- Woolard, J. L., Fondacaro, M. R., & Slobogin, C. (2001). Informing juvenile justice policy: Directions for behavioral science research. *Law and Human Behavior*, 25(1), 13–24. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1005635808317>.

Week 10: 10/27 – 11/2 Module 10 – Capital Punishment and Prisoner's Rights: Federal and State Level Policies

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board

Readings

- Connor, E. M. (2010). The undermining influence of the federal death penalty on capital policymaking and criminal justice administration in the states. *The Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, 100(1), 149–212.
- Pritchard, A., & Wiatrowski, M. (2008). Race and capital punishment: State level analysis of the effects of race on states' capital punishment policies. *Journal of*

Ethnicity in Criminal Justice, 6(2), 103–121.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15377930802096488>

• Mitchell, D. (2010). Prisoners' constitutional rights. (2003). *Criminal Justice Studies*, 16, 2003. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0888431032000151000>.

Week 11: 11/3 – 11/9 Module 11 – Corrections: Laws and Policies in the 21st century

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board

Readings

- Chapter 7 – U.S. corrections policy since the 1970s.
- Graves, S. M. (2015). Correctional mission statements as indicators of the criminal justice policy environment: A research note. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 26(5), 488–499. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0887403414524052>
- Rosenberg, A., Groves, A. K., & Blankenship, K. M. (2017). Comparing black and white drug offenders: Implications for racial disparities in criminal justice and reentry policy and programming. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 47(1), 132–142. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022042616678614>
- Sundt, J., Salisbury, E. J., & Harmon, M. G. (2016). Is downsizing prisons dangerous? The effect of California's realignment act on public safety. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 15(2), 315–341. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12199>.

Week 12: 11/10 – 11/16 Module 12 – Immigration and Criminal Justice Policies

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board

Readings

- Chapter 11 – Through the looking glass: Exploring the relationship between contemporary immigration and crime control policies.
- Amuedo-Dorantes, C., & Lopez, M. J. (2022). Immigration policy, immigrant detention, and the U.S. jail system. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 21(2), 433–460. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12580>
- Miller, H. V., Ripepi, M., Ernstes, A. M., & Peguero, A. A. (2020). Immigration policy and justice in the era of COVID-19. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 45(4), 793–809. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-020-09544-2>.

Week 13: 11/17 – 11/23 Module 14 - Cross -National Issues in Crime, Law, and Policy

1. Submit Article Analysis
2. Participate in the Discussion Board

Readings

- Chapter 14 – Criminal justice policy and transnational crime: The case of anti-human trafficking policy.
- Farrell, A., & Fahy, S. (2009). The problem of human trafficking in the U.S.: Public frames and policy responses. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 37(6), 617–626. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2009.09.010>.

Week 14: 11/24 – 11/30 Thanksgiving Break

Week 15: 12/1 – 12/7 Last day of class Thursday, Dec. 4.

1. Work on Final Paper

2. Final Paper Due by Sunday, Dec. 7, 2024 at 11:59 pm.