COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course presents an overview of the criminal justice system and social control, from policing to trials and sentencing policy. Among other topics, we will discuss tough on crime policies, drug treatment courts, the War on Terrorism, the politics of crime and crime control, the punishment of sex offenders and its implications for public safety, rules of evidence, prison riots, and the death penalty. The emphasis in the course is to critically evaluate how we process individuals through the criminal justice system and the implications this processing has on public safety, civil liberties, public policy, and social control. Particular attention is paid to current challenges to the system. The first season of The Wire will be used as a medium to illustrate the gap between the idea of the criminal justice system and the reality of the criminal justice system.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
• To describe basic features of the American criminal justice system, legal sanctions, and methods of social control;

• To explore different philosophical perspectives on justice and formal and informal decision-making;

• To understand police organizations, how cases are processed through the court system, sentencing decisions, and the various forms of criminal punishment;

• To critically evaluate criminal justice policies and their consequences;

• To become smart consumers of news reports, political rhetoric, and public discussion about crime, punishment, and the law.

ASSIGNED TEXTS:


* In addition to these books, several brief articles may be assigned throughout the semester.
REQUIRED MATERIAL:
The Wire: Season 1 (DVD / BLU-RAY / HBO GO / HBO NOW / Amazon Prime / iTunes)
Blue Bloods - Various Episodes (DVD / CBS All Access / iTunes / Hulu / Netflix)

OPTIONAL MATERIAL:
The Wire: Seasons 2 - 5 (DVD / BLU-RAY / HBO GO / HBO NOW / Amazon Prime / iTunes)


COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Students are expected to come to class on time and remain for the entire class. Attendance and participation are vital components to being successful in this class. The reading assignments should be completed by the dates indicated on the schedule below. In class, you should be prepared to demonstrate your understanding of the reading material (or at least have a set of thoughtful questions about it) and prepared to offer a point of view about the issues being addressed. Participation by students produces a more thoughtful discussion which will make the course not only more interesting but more meaningful. Class attendance / participation is worth 20% of your grade and should not be taken lightly.

Several quizzes and writing assignments will be given out periodically throughout the quarter. If students are actively engaged in class discussion then quizzes will become infrequent. However, if class participation is lacking then quizzes will be relied upon to gage student preparedness.

Four in class exams will be given on Tuesday, September 8, 2015; Thursday, October 1, 2015; Thursday, October 22, 2015; & Tuesday, November 17, 2015. The final examination will be given during the examination period on Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. The final is comprehensive. Both exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

All students will be taking the class for a letter grade; there is no pass/fail option.

Grades will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance / Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97% - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94% - 96.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% - 93.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% - 89.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84% - 86.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% - 83.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77% - 79.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74% - 76.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70% - 73.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67% - 69.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64% - 66.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60% - 63.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0% - 59.99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE POLICIES

Academic Misconduct and Classroom Etiquette: Students are expected to abide by the LSU student code of conduct. Students who are caught cheating on an exam will fail the course, with no exceptions. Students are also expected to abide by the basic rules of classroom etiquette including: getting to class on time and coming prepared to engage; turning off all electronic devices; not talking during lectures; and remaining respectful of diverse views when engaging in classroom debate. All views are allowed and welcome; however, expressing them in a respectful way is required. Reasonable people can disagree, but disagreement needs to be expressed in ways that are conducive to the free exchange of ideas, productive dialogue, and meaningful learning.

Use of Technology in the Classroom: Please turn off all computers, cell phones, pagers, portable devices (e.g., Tablets, MP3, or CD players) and any other electronic communication and/or entertainment devices before coming to class. Students with phones that ring during class will be asked to leave.

Missed Classes: If you miss a class, speak to a classmate for the notes. If you are confused once you have reviewed a classmate’s notes then see the GA or the instructor for clarification. Missing class more than once or twice is likely to compromise your grade.

Missed Exams: Missed exams cannot be made-up without prior permission or proof of a medical or other emergency preventing you from taking the exam. You must let the instructor know before the exam if you are unable to make it.

Disability: Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the professor privately to discuss specific needs. Also, contact the LSU Disability Services at (225) 578-5919 as soon as possible to better ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

COURSE SUGGESTIONS:

Although it is not required, you are encouraged to:

1. Raise your hand in class, question the professor, and engage with the material via discussion!

2. Get acquainted with one another. Exchange e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Form study groups. Engage in collaborative learning. Studies show that students who engage in collaborative learning tend to do better in college and beyond.

3. See the professor and/or the GA as often as is necessary to do well in this course. Do not wait until problems are irreparable or concerns are outdated to seek assistance. Try to make it to our office hours but if that is not possible make an appointment. If you extend the effort, we will be available and willing to help you do well in this class.
COURSE SCHEDULE:

**Week 1: INTRODUCTION**
August 25th
Class Orientation
Human Behavior & Crime Control

August 27th
Perspectives of Punishment

**Week 2: FOUNDATIONAL JUSTICE ISSUES**
September 1st
Perspectives of Punishment cont.

September 3rd
Criminal Justice Theory

**Week 3: POLICING**
September 8th
EXAM 1

September 11th
History of Policing

**Week 4: POLICING**
September 15th
Police Reform: A Revised History

September 17th
Police Culture

Read:
Kubrin & Stucky - Preface & Chapters 1 & 2

Watch: The Wire - Season 1
Episode 1: The Target
Episode 2: The Detail

Read:
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 3 & 4

Watch: The Wire - Season 1
Episode 3: The Buys
Episode 4: Old Cases

Read:
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 5

Watch: The Wire - Season 1
Episode 5: The Pages
Episode 6: The Wire
Episode 7: One Arrest

Read:
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 6 & 7
Collins & Brody - Chapters 6 (PDF)
Kelling & Moore - Evolving Strategy (PDF)

Watch: The Wire - Season 1
Episode 8: Lessons
Episode 9: Game Day

Watch: Blue Bloods - Season 5
Episode 2: Forgive and Forget
**Week 5: POLICING**

September 22nd
Police Practices

September 24th
Policing Strategies & Impact

**Week 6: POLICING**

September 29th
Police Misconduct

October 1st
EXAM 2

**Week 7: COURTS**

October 6th
The Courtroom Players

October 8th
GIDEON’S ARMY

**Week 8: COURTS**

October 13th
Plea Bargaining & Justice

October 15th:
Disparities in Criminal Sentencing

**Read:**
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 8, 9, & 10
Simon - Homicide Excerpt (PDF)

**Watch:**
The Wire - Season 1
Episode 10: The Cost
Episode 11: The Hunt

**Read:**
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 11
Collins & Brody - Chapter 7 (PDF)

**Watch:**
The Wire - Season 1
Episode 12: Cleaning Up
Episode 13: Sentencing

**Read:**
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 12, 13, & 14

**Read:**
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 15, 16, & 17

**Watch:**
Frontline: The Plea
Week 9: COURTS  
October 20th  
The Jury / Specialized Courts

Read:  
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 17 & 19  
Currie - Chapter 1

October 22nd  
EXAM 3

Week 10: CORRECTIONS  
October 27th  
Goals & Forms of Punishment

Read:  
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 20  
Currie - Chapter 2

Watch: Blue Bloods - Season 5  
Episode 18: Bad Company

October 29: NO CLASS

Week 11: CORRECTIONS  
November 3rd  
Death Penalty / Sex Offenders

Read:  
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 21 & 22  
Currie - Chapter 3

November 5th  
THE FARM: 10 DOWN

Week 12: CORRECTIONS  
November 10th  
The Experience of Punishment / Prison Riots

Read:  
Kubrin & Stucky - Chapters 23 & 24  
Currie - Chapter 4

November 12th  
GUEST SPEAKER: ASHANTI WITHERSPOON
Week 13: CRIME CONTROL TODAY
November 17th
EXAM 4

October 19th
THE HOUSE I LIVE IN

Week 14: CRIME CONTROL TODAY
November 24th
The Carceral State

Read:
Currie - Chapter 5 & Conclusion

Read:
Kubrin & Stucky - 25 & 26
Reiman & Leighton - Chapter 1 (PDF)

November 26th: NO CLASS

Week 15: CRIME CONTROL TODAY
December 1st
Mass Incarceration’s Collateral Consequences

Read:
Kubrin & Stucky - 28, 29, & 30
Reiman & Leighton - Chapter 4 (PDF)

December 3rd
Emerging Crime Control Strategies / Where Do We Go From Here?

Week 16: FINAL EXAMS
Tuesday / Thursday 9:00 - 10:30
December 12th (Saturday)
10:00am - 12:00pm