Political Science 2332
Crime Control Policy
Spring 2018
60 Fifth Ave, First Floor, Room C10

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Classroom: 60 5th Ave, First Floor, Room C10
Meeting Times: Monday and Wednesday, 6:20 – 8:20 pm

Discussion Section
If sufficient interest exists, there will be a weekly discussion section to review the materials covered in class.

Course Website: http://www.newclasses.nyu.edu

*Students should frequently check the announcement board on the website for updates or changes. Students are also encouraged to post comments on the message board.
Course Description and Objectives

Crime and crime control generate heated debate and engage deep philosophical and social issues, from the nature of responsibility to the causes of inter-ethnic tension. Much of the crime-control debate starts from moral presuppositions and legal categories. The immediate, practical issue of what policies will reduce the extent of crime and the damage done by crime tends to get lost in the shuffle. (For example, people who, for moral or legal reasons, oppose the death penalty are likely to think that it is not an effective deterrent to homicide, while those who, for similar reasons support the death penalty, are led to believe in its efficacy. In each case, the conclusion comes before the evidence.)

This course considers the basic questions of policy analysis, as applied to crime: What is the nature and extent of the problem? What are the options for dealing with it? What are the likely consequences of pursuing each possible mix of crime control activities? Of those bundles of outcomes, which is the most attractive?

Crime control policy also provides a window into the practice of policy analysis, and an intellectually challenging opportunity to apply social science concepts to real-world problems.

Grading

The grades will be determined 20% by reading summaries, 30% by the midterm, 40% by the final, and 10% by class participation, including both asking questions and offering comments during the lectures and review sessions and participating activity on the discussion boards.

Reading Summaries

Twice over the semester, each student will be asked to prepare a one- to two-page summary and analysis of one of the readings prior to that reading’s discussion in class. Each student will sign up for a class in advance to prepare a summary of the readings and a 3-minute presentation to start the class. The summaries will be distributed to the course participants two days in advance of the class. Students will be expected to prepare a reading summary and presentation once before the midterm and once after.

The reading summaries should take the format of a memo to the Governor of New York. Imagine you have been asked to advise a newly-elected Governor of New York in 2019 about crime and punishment. The memo should both summarize the readings and consist of the student’s own analysis.

The first couple of paragraphs should summarize the author’s argument: What evidence does the author use? What policy conclusion does he or she draw? The last few paragraphs should consist of the student’s own analysis: Do the author’s evidence and analysis support the policy conclusion? What, if any, are the shortcomings in the author’s analysis? What strategies does the student suggest based on the readings?

Please proofread for spelling and grammar mistakes. Students are encouraged to work in groups to discuss the readings, but the summaries should be entirely individual products.
Exams
The take-home midterm and final exam (open book and notes, closed browser and ears) will draw on the readings as well as the lectures. The exams will be available for pick-up in class and will be due one week later. The exams are to be completed individually: No collaboration or group work is allowed on the exams.

Readings and Lectures
The lectures will not recapitulate the readings; some of the readings are intended to provide alternative viewpoints to those expressed in lecture. It is necessary to do the readings in order to do well in the course.

There are eight required texts:


5. Stuntz, William *The Collapse of American Criminal Justice*

6. Zimring, Franklin *The City that Became Safe*


Additionally, there are several supplemental assigned readings. These can be downloaded from the course website under the corresponding week in which they appear on the syllabus.

You will also need to access the Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, available at [http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/](http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/)
Course Schedule and Assignments

WEEK 1

Monday, January 22 – Introduction: How to Have Less Crime and Less Punishment [27]

Readings:

Wednesday, January 24 – The Costs of Crime and Crime Control I [85+]

Readings:
5. Sourcebook sections on criminal-justice budgets

WEEK 2

Crime Patterns and Crime Trends

Monday, January 29 – Patterns and Measurements [23+]

Readings:
1. Sourcebook sections
3. Kennedy, *Race, Crime and the Law* [sections?]
   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_in_the_United_States

Wednesday, January 31: Crime Boom and Crime Decline [25+]

Readings:
   https://www.nap.edu/read/18613/chapter/6#107
2. Zimring, *The City That Became Safe* [sections?]
4. Goldstein, “10 Not Entirely Crazy Theories Explaining the Great Crime Decline”

WEEK 3
Monday, February 5: **Deterrence - Crime as Choice [43+]**

**Readings:**
1. Beccaria, *On Crimes and Punishments*: Selections (see below)
   http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/beccaria-an-essay-on-crimes-and-punishments
   - Introduction
   - Chapter i.: Of The Origin Of Punishments.
   - Chapter ii.: Of The Right To Punish.
   - Chapter iii.: Consequences Of The Foregoing Principles.
   - Chapter vi.: Of The Proportion Between Crimes And Punishments.
   - Chapter vii.: Of Estimating The Degree Of Crimes.
   - Chapter xii.: Of The Intent Of Punishments.
   - Chapter xvi.: Of Torture.
   - Chapter xvii.: Of Pecuniary Punishments.
   - Chapter xix.: Of The Advantage Of Immediate Punishment.
   - Chapter xx.: Of Acts Of Violence.
   - Chapter xli.: Of The Means Of Preventing Crimes.
   - Chapter xlii.: Of The Sciences.
   - Chapter xliii.: Of Magistrates.
   - Chapter xlv.: Of Rewards.
   - Chapter xlvii.: Conclusion
2. Becker, “*An Economic Theory of Crime*” (skim for main ideas)

Wednesday, February 7: **Why Brute Force Fails [49+]**

**Readings:**
1. Mullainathan and Safir, *Scarcity* [sections?]
5. Chapter from W&P or from Crime and Human Nature on cognitive factors in offending

**WEEK 4**

Monday, February 12: **Tipping and Dynamic Concentration [71]**

**Readings:**
1. Schelling, “*On the Ecology of Micromotives*”
2. Kleiman, *When Brute Force Fails*: Ch. 3 – “Hope” and Ch. 4 – “Tipping, Dynamic
Concentration, and the Logic of Deterrence”

**Wednesday, February 14: Race and Class, Crime and Punishment [11+]**

**Readings:**
2. Western and Pettit, “Incarceration and Social Inequality”

**WEEK 5**

**Monday, February 19: No Class: Presidents Day**

**Wednesday, February 21: Institutions and Strategies I: Policing [62]**

**Readings:**

**WEEK 6**

**Monday, February 26 – Institutions and Strategies II: Prosecution and Courts [78]**

**Readings:**

**Wednesday, February 28 – Midterm Review Day**

**MIDTERM EXAM DISTRIBUTED; DUE ONE WEEK FROM THIS DATE.**

**WEEK 7**

**Monday, March 5 – Institutions and Strategies III: Prisons and Jails [22]**

**Readings:**

**Wednesday, March 7 – Institutions and Strategies IV: Community Corrections [154]**

**MIDTERM DUE BY CLASS TIME**

**Readings:**
2. Hawken et. al., “Managing Drug-Involved Offenders”
3. Lattimore, “HOPE Demonstration Field Experiment”

**WEEK 8**

March 12 – 18: No Class, Spring Recess

**WEEK 9**

Monday, March 19 – Institutions and Strategies V: Re-Entry and Re-Integration [61]

Readings:
1. Hawken & Kleiman, “Graduated Reintegration, Smoothing the Transition from Prison to Community”
2. Kleiman, “Justice Reinvestment in Community Supervision” pp. 651-659
   Wilson & Petersilia, Crime and Public Policy: Ch. 11 – “Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs”

Wednesday, March 21 – Crime Despite Punishment [27]

Readings:
1. Cook, “The Demand and Supply of Criminal Opportunities” pp. 1-27

**WEEK 10**

Monday, March 26 – Crime Control Without Punishment [81]

Readings:
1. Wilson & Petersilia, Crime and Public Policy: Ch. 8 – “Community”
2. Kleiman, When Brute Force Fails: Ch. 7 – “Crime Control Without Punishment”

Wednesday, March 28 – Drugs and Other Illicit Markets [71+]

Readings:
3. Kennedy, Don’t Shoot: Ch. 6 – “High Point: Truthelling and Reconciliation”
4. [ITTP paper]

**WEEK 11**
Monday, April 2 – Street Crews, Outreach, and Focused Deterrence [161]

Readings:
1. Wilson & Petersilia, Crime and Public Policy: Ch. 6 – “Street Gangs” and Ch. 10 – “Gun Control”
2. Kennedy, Don’t Shoot: Chapters 1-3

Wednesday, April 4 – Guns and Gun Policy [128]

Readings:
1. Wilson & Petersilia, Crime and Public Policy: Ch. 10 – “Gun Control”
2. Cook & Ludwig, Aiming for Evidence-Based Gun Policy: pp. 691-735
3. Kleiman, When Brute Force Fails: Ch. 8 – “Guns and Gun Control”

WEEK 12

Monday, April 9 – Alcohol

Wednesday, April 11 – Lead

WEEK 13

Monday, April 16 – Domestic Violence
Wednesday, April 18 - Fines and Fees

Readings:
1. Bains, “Sessions Says to Courts: Go Ahead, Jail People Because They’re Poor”

WEEK 14

Monday, April 23 – Police Management and Misconduct

Wednesday, April 25 – Free Day

WEEK 15


Readings:
Wednesday, May 2 – What Could Go Wrong? / An Agenda for Crime Control II [118]

Readings:
1. Kennedy, Don’t Shoot: Ch. 4 – “Baltimore: Politics, Resistance, Obstruction”; Ch. 7 – “Building Out II”; Ch. 8 – “Stopping It”; Ch. 9 – “Cincinnati”; and Ch. 10 – “Now”

WEEK 16

Monday, May 7 – Final Exam Review

**TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED**

**Take-Home Final Exam Due Online by May 14**