

# Justice Processes

Justice 360

FALL 2009

Time: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 – 12:45  
Location: SSB 211  
Instructor: Dr. Ronald S. Everett  
Office: LIB 213M  
Phone: 786-1820 (voicemail)  
Email: [afirse@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afirse@uaa.alaska.edu)  
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 3:00pm;  
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 – 10:30am

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a survey of critical issues in the operation of the criminal justice system. The various topics are explored within the framework of criminal justice policy creation, implementation and operation. The role of political, ideological, cultural, economic, and organizational forces on the operation of the criminal justice system is analyzed. The primary goals of the course are to develop a comprehensive understanding of the operation of the criminal justice system and a critical appraisal of decision-making and criminal justice policy.

## II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develop critical understanding of criminal justice policy formulation and operation.
2. Understand the influence of ideology and politics in the operation of the criminal justice system.
3. Explore the relationship between the operation of the criminal justice system and fundamental ideals of justice
4. Evaluate the relationship between criminal justice policy and scientific research evidence; this includes discussion of evidence-based policy and evidence producing policy.
5. Analyze the influence of the media and public opinion on our understanding of crime and the operation of the criminal justice system.
6. Identify and evaluate alternative criminal justice and crime control policies

### III. REQUIRED TEXTS

Bogira, Steve, 2005. Courtroom 302: A Year Behind the Scenes in an American Criminal Courthouse.

Mays, G.L. and R. Ruddell, 2008. Making Sense of Criminal Justice: Policies and Practices. Oxford University Press.

Walker, Samuel, 2005 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Sense and Nonsense about Crime and Drugs: A Policy Guide. Wadsworth Publishing.

### IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### **A. Examinations**

There are two examinations during the semester and a comprehensive final examination. Each examination will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer/definition questions and one or more essay questions.

#### **B. Book Review Journal, Analysis and Discussion**

One component of the required reading for the course, in addition to the more standard academic material, is the book Courtroom 302: A year Behind the Scenes in an American Criminal Court. This work will be read and discussed in class throughout the semester. Study guide questions will be provided and students will be required to answer these specific questions in a book review journal, and also to be prepared to engage in class discussion concerning specific issues/ideas raised in the book. The completed book review journal, representing a compilation of answers to the study guide questions and student's individual thoughts and insights about each section of reading must be submitted on Thursday November 19, 2009. Late submission of the book review journal will result in a 10% per day grade reduction penalty.

#### **C. Class Attendance and Participation**

This course is designed to encourage discussion and debate on various critical issues and problems confronting the daily operation of the criminal justice system. Therefore, preparation prior to class coupled with class attendance and participation are necessary for the success of this course. Various in-class projects, including discussion questions from assigned reading material, structured debates and other group activities will be completed during the semester.

## **D. Final Grade Calculation**

Examination One	20%
Examination Two	25%
Final Examination	30%
Book Review Journal	15%
Class Participation	10%

## **V. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **A. Academic Honor Code**

Academic integrity is a basic principle that requires students take credit for ideas and efforts that are their own. Cheating is defined as any means by which a student uses unauthorized assistance to prepare materials submitted as his/her own. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please review the current catalog and student handbook for additional information on academic dishonesty and disciplinary procedures.

### **B. Make-up Examinations**

No make-up examinations will be given absent extraordinary and documented circumstances beyond the student's control. In such cases it is your responsibility to notify me 12 hours prior to the scheduled examination time. All make-up examinations will be given at the end of the semester during the final examination period.

### **C. Classroom Etiquette**

Please make all efforts to arrive at class on time and prepared. There are times when this will not be possible so if you must enter late do so quietly and do not disturb your classmates and the flow of the moment. Please turn off your cell phone and any other hand held electronic devices before entering the classroom. Obviously do not talk on your cell phone, text message or explore cyberspace during class time. In general use of a laptop computer for note taking is an unnecessary distraction and prohibited without a demonstrated need for a special accommodation. Students with a disability necessitating laptop use should see the instructor.

### **D. Campus Safety**

Although relatively safe, our campus is not a sanctuary from crime and accidents still occur no matter how hard we try to prevent them. You are encouraged to be responsible for your own safety and to bring safety concerns to the attention of UAA faculty or staff, or to contact the Campus Police at 786-1120 when necessary.

## **E. Accommodations for Disabilities**

I am happy to provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. If you require accommodations please contact Disability Support Services and then speak with me so we can make the necessary provisions.

- All dates for reading assignments and examinations are approximations and are to be used only as a general guide. The instructor reserves the prerogative to adjust the syllabus throughout the semester. Any changes will be announced in class. Each student is responsible for attending class and being aware of course scheduling.

## **VI. TOPIC AREAS AND REQUIRED READINGS**

Week 1: August 25

Introduction and overview - Reading: Walker, chapter 1 *Crime and Policy a Complex Problem*

Week 2: September 1

Criminal Justice Policy - Reading: Mays and Ruddell, chapter 1 *The Politics and Policy Dichotomy*; Bogira, Prologue and chapter 1

Week 3: September 10

The criminal justice system - Reading: Walker, chapter 2 *Models of Criminal Justice*; Mays and Ruddell, chapter 2 *Crime Control Versus Due Process*

Week 4: September 15

The courtroom workgroup - Reading: Walker, chapter 3 *The Going Rate* and Chapter 4 *The Career Criminal*; Bogira, chapters 2 and 3

\*\*\*\*APPROXIMATE DATE EXAMINATION ONE \*\*\*\*

Week 5: September 22

Get Tough on Crime - Reading: Walker, chapter 5 *Unleash the Cops*; Mays and Ruddell, chapter 3 *Philosophy of Policing*; Bogira, chapter 4

Week 6: September 29

Punishment and Crime Rates - Reading: Walker, chapter 6 *Deter the Criminals*; Mays and Ruddell, chapter 4 *Police and the Use of Force* and chapter 12 *The Death Penalty*; Bogira, chapter 5

Week 7: October 6

Corrections and Get tough on Crime - Reading: Walker, chapters 7 *Lock 'Em Up*, Chapter 8 *Close the Loopholes*; Mays and Ruddell, chapter 9 *Wrongful Convictions*; Bogira, chapter 6-8

Week 8: October 13

Corrections and Get Tough on Crime - Reading: Mays and Ruddell, chapter 6 *Sentencing*, chapter 11 *Build More Prisons*

\*\*\*\* APPROXIMATE DATE EXAMINATION TWO\*\*\*\*

Week 9: October 20

The Middle Ground - Reading: Walker, chapter 9 *Protect Crime Victims*, Chapter 10 *Control Gun Crimes*; Mays and Ruddell, chapter 5 *Gun Control*; Bogira, chapters 9-11

Week 10: October 27

Reform the System - Reading: Walker, chapter 11 *Treat 'Em*; Mays and Ruddell, chapter 10 *What are the Alternatives?*; Bogira, chapters 12-15

Week 11: November 3

Legitimacy - Reading: Walker, chapter 12 *Gain Compliance with the Law*; Mays and Ruddell, chapter 7 *Race, Ethnicity and Justice* and chapter 8 *Gender and Justice*; Bogira, chapters 16 and 17

Week 12: November 10

Crime and drugs - Reading: Walker, chapter 13 *Sense and Nonsense about Drugs*; Bogira, chapters 18, 19 and Epilogue

Week 13: November 17

Public Safety and the Future - Reading: Mays and Ruddell, chapter 14 *Living in a Post-9/11 World*

Week 14: November 24 - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Public Safety and the Future, Reading: Mays and Ruddell, chapter 15 *Making Sense of Criminal Justice*

Week 15: December 1

Future Directions - Reading: Walker, chapter 14 *Crime and Community*

**FINAL EXAMINATION: THURSDAY DECEMBER 10, 2009 AT 10:00AM TO 12:00**