

CRJ U 70900--**Organizational Behavior and Policy Making in Criminal Justice**
PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

Fall 2002, Diana R. Gordon and Ned Benton
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Criminal justice policy making is the complex product of organizational and political power. This course will examine the policy-making process from this perspective by reviewing established theory and emerging research in the field of organizational behavior and considering the interplay of interests in a range of criminal justice policy debates. We will give as much attention to **how** policy is interpreted—the various lenses through which the observer may view it—as to understanding and explaining it from a particular viewpoint.

Much of the current literature on criminal justice policy development is now available in document repositories on the Internet, often making it easier and quicker to get the latest thinking on a particular issue. This course will integrate study of the published literature with Internet-based research and presentation. We will have, in effect, two classrooms—one physical and one virtual. You will have assignments on the Web-based Blackboard, and you will discuss your reading with your classmates online. For more information on Blackboard, check the John Jay College web site at: <http://jjconline.jjay.cuny.edu/>. Each student will be responsible for a review of Web sites on an assigned policy debate to be posted on Blackboard and discussed online and in class in addition to a 4000-5000-word final paper on a topic of the student's choosing.

There will be no texts required for purchase. Reading assignments will be either on reserve in the John Jay library, available online, or handed out as photocopied materials in class. However, you may want to own the following book as a helpful introduction to some of the most important current policy issues in criminal justice:

Samuel Walker, Sense and Nonsense about Crime and Drugs, 5th edition.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SOME READING ASSIGNMENTS (more to be included in final syllabus, available in July)

I. The Policy Process (weeks 1 and 2)

Assignments:

- Thomas R. Dye, Understanding Public Policy, 10th edition-- Chapters 2, 3, and 4.
- S.Z. Theodoulou, "How public policy is made." In S.Z. Theodoulou & M.A. Cahn (Eds.), Public policy: The essential readings.

II. Organizations and their Effect on Policy (weeks 3 and 4)

Assignments:

- Jay M. Shafritz and J. Steven Ott, Classics of Organization Theory—selections to be determined.
- J. van Maanen, “Police Socialization,” in Administrative Science Quarterly, 1975
- Malcolm Feeley, “Two Models of the Criminal Justice System: An Organizational Perspective,” in Hancock and Sharp, Public Policy, Crime, and Criminal Justice.
- James Eisenstein and Herbert Jacob, Felony Justice: An Organizational Analysis of Criminal Courts—excerpts to be determined.

Web review of general criminal justice research sites.

II. Enduring Policy Debates in Criminal Justice (weeks 5, 6, 7)

A. How Punitive and Why? “Get Tough” and Its Alternatives

Assignments:

- William J. Bennett, John J. DiIulio, and John P. Walters, Body Count: Moral Poverty—And How to Win America’s War on Crime and Drugs.
- William Lyons and Stuart Scheingold, The Politics of Crime and Punishment (available on Blackboard)
- William Chambliss, Power, Politics and Crime.

B. Whose Interests Take Precedence? Balancing Efficiency and Fairness

Assignments:

- Herbert Packer, The Limits of the Criminal Sanction—excerpts to be determined.
- Kent Roach “Four Models of the Criminal Process,” Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, 1999

Web review of capital punishment, drug policy, and prison reform sites.

C. Whose Crimes Get Attention? Class and Criminalization

Assignments to be determined

III. Current Policy Themes (weeks 8-14)

A. Restorative and Community Justice

Assignments:

- Daniel Van Ness and Karen Heederks Strong, Restoring Justice—excerpts to be determined.

- David Karp and Todd Clear, eds., What Is Community Justice? Case studies to be determined.

Web review of restorative justice sites.

B. Managing the Miscreants

Assignments:

- Malcom Feeley and Jonathon Simon, “The New Penology: Notes on the Emerging Strategy of Corrections and Its Implications,” Criminology (1995).
- R. McCorkle and J. Crank, “Meet the New Boss: Institutional Change and Loose Coupling in Parole and Probation,” American Journal of Criminal Justice, 1996.
- David Garland, The Culture of Control, excerpts to be determined.

C. Privatizing Police and Prisons

Assignments:

- Brian Forst, The Privatization and Civilianization of Policing (available on Blackboard).
- David Bayley and Clifford Shearing, “The Future of Policing,” Law and Society Review, 1996.

Web review of privatization sites.

D. Reducing Discrimination in Criminal Justice

Assignments:

- In Soo Sun, Mark S. Davis and Dennis M. Rome, “Race and Its Effect on Police Officers’ Perceptions of Misconduct,” in Journal of Criminal Justice, 1998.
- Cassia Spohn, Thirty Years of Sentencing Reform: The Quest for a Racially Neutral Sentencing Process, available on Blackboard.

Web review of racial justice sites

E. Involving the Victims

Assignments: to be determined

Web review of victim services sites

F. De-Escalating The War on Drugs

Assignments: to be determined

- Ralph Weisheit and John M. Klofas, “The Public Health Approach to Illegal Drugs,” in Criminal Justice Review, 1998.

Web review of drug policy reform sites

F. Prioritizing Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Assignments: to be determined