Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy
New School University

CRN 2415
Seminar on Criminal Justice Policy in New York City

Syllabus

Thursdays 10:00 – 11:50 AM

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Office hours are flexible and by appointment. I am in my office for part of the day almost every day, but I am not always immediately available. Please call ahead.

This course aims to provide students with greater understanding of the politics, theory and the on-the-ground implementation of policies related to criminal justice in New York City. We will examine the impact of criminal justice policies on urban communities during the last two decades, learn about recent research and examine innovative programs.

We will study the characteristics of criminal justice policy, programs and practices in New York City, as well as the ideas behind those policies. We will explore how ideas become policies, and how those policies become action in the form of programs, tactics and methods of operation in government agencies. And finally, we will discuss change and how it happens: how do people alter government policy and programs? What does it take to reverse injustice or overcome ineffectiveness in government?

The course covers current policy, but in the context of the city's contemporary history. We will explore the roots of urban violence, the response to the crack-driven crime spike of the late 1980s, the economic and social impacts of 1990s criminal justice policies, as well as the prosecution of white-collar Wall Street corruption in the 1980s and 90s.

This is a seminar, not a lecture course. As much as possible, our sessions together will revolve around group discussion. This means your preparation for class is essential. Our readings include newspaper and magazine articles; literary nonfiction; academic research and policy analysis and program evaluations produced by think tanks and others.

REQUIREMENTS

Required Reading:
There are five required texts for the course. They can be purchased at the Barnes and Noble store at 18th Street and Fifth Avenue:

Fox Butterfield, *All God's Children: The Bosket Family and the American Tradition of Violence* (New York: HarperCollins, 1996),

Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, *Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble and Coming of Age in the Bronx* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003).

Michael Massing, *The Fix* (Berkeley: University California Press, 2000).

James B. Stewart, *Den of Thieves* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992).

Terry Williams, *Cocaine Kids: The Inside Story of a Teenage Drug Ring* (New York: Perseus, 1990).

Additional readings, consisting of book chapters, journal articles, newspaper articles and reports, are available for download on the Web, on reserve at Fogelman Library, and in packets that will be available shortly.

In addition, students must make a daily habit of reading the Metro section of *The New York Times* as well as the *New York Daily News*.

Course Requirements:
- Active participation at all sessions. Course grading is skewed heavily toward promoting informed class discussions. You will be expected to complete all assigned reading in preparation for each class.
- A 5-page mid-term memo explaining your views on a current issue in criminal justice policy in New York City. The essay will integrate information from a number of course readings, press reports and sources you identify on your own (details to follow);
- A memo including an outline and an annotated bibliography describing your plan for the term paper and the sources you are using.
- A 15 to 20 page term paper/report. The options for this paper are: 1) An analytical report describing and explaining the development and/or impact of a city program or policy in criminal justice or closely related fields; or, 2) a literature review of a key area in criminal justice policy presenting a well-argued point of view including analysis of literature that addresses theory, policy development and implementation (details to follow).

Final Grades will be based on the following:

Class Participation, including class discussion and exhibited familiarity
with the readings. — 40% (see note on extra credit below)
Mid-term paper — 20%
Final Report — 40%

Note on Extra Credit:
You may opt to raise the class participation portion of your grade by writing one or more 2-page essays that respond to key points drawn from course readings. These should be handed in during class sessions. This is especially useful for students who are uncomfortable speaking a great deal in class. *No extra credit essays will be accepted after April 29*.

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

1. January 29 **Course introduction**

2. February 5 **Violence in America and the City**

***Readings*:**
Fox Butterfield, "All God's Children," prologue, chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 (pages xiii-xvii, 3-34, 71-149)

Robert J. Sampson and William Julius Wilson, "Toward a Theory of Race, Crime and Urban Inequality," in *Community Justice*, edited by David Karp (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998). pp.97-118.

3. February 12 **Crime, poverty, work and neighborhoods**

***Readings*:**
Jeffrey Fagan and Richard B. Freeman, "Crime and Work," in *Crime and Justice*, v. 25, pp.225-289 (1999).

William Bennett and John DiIulio: "Root Cause of Crime: Moral Poverty," in *Body Count: Moral Poverty…and How to Win America's War Against Crime and Drugs* Simon & Schuster 1996.

Mark Elliott, Mae Watson Grote and Oren Levin-Waldman, "Deepening Disparity: Income Inequality in New York City," New York: Public Private Ventures, September 2001.

4. February 19 **Status Offenders, Juvenile Justice and NYC Families**

Readings:
Fox Butterfield, "All God's Children," chapters 9, 10, 11, 14, 16 and epilogue. (Pages 150-227, 263-280, 302-331).

Eric Weingartner, Andrea Weitz et al. "A Study of the PINS System in New York City." New York: Vera Institute of Justice, March 2002. Available on-line at http://www.vera.org/publication_pdf/159_243.pdf

Pam Frederick, "Cell's Angels," *City Limits*, February 1997, pp. 24-28.

5. February 26 **The Crack Years, Part 1**

***Readings*:**
Terry Williams, *Cocaine Kids*

Aric Press, "Piecing Together New York's Criminal Justice System: The Response to Crack" *The Record of the New York Bar Association* 1987 , pp.541-569.

Sheigla Murphy and Marsha Rosenbaum, "Two Women Who Used Cocaine Too Much," Chapter 5 in *Crack in America*, edited by Craig Reinarman and Harry Levine (Berkeley: University of California, 1997).

6. March 4 **Drug Policy**

***Readings*:**
Michael Massing, *The Fix*. Read the introduction and chapters 1 thru 8, 11, 14 thru 19 and conclusion.

The Correctional Association of New York, "Effective Alternatives to the Drug Laws: What Works Best for Nonviolent Drug Offenders," February 2001. available on-line at http://www.droptherock.org/effective.htm

7. March 11 **The Crack Years, Part 2**

Robert Jackall, "Wild Cowboys: Urban Marauders and the Focus of Order," (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997). Read chapters 1, 2 and 3.

Richard Curtis, "The Improbable Transformation of Inner-City Neighborhoods: Crime, Violence, Drugs and Youth in the 1990s," *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology,* Summer 1998 V.88 #4 pp.1233-1276

Bruce D. Johnson, Terry Williams et al.: "Drug Abuse in the Inner City: Impact on Hard-drug Users and the Community," in *Drugs and Crime*, edited by Tonry and Wilson, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990, pp. 9-67

Paul Goldstein, Henry Brownstein et al., "Crack and Homicide in New York City," Chapter 6 in *Crack in America*.

8. March 18 **The Giuliani Years and the Crime Decline**

**Mid-term paper due*

Readings:
Jack Maple, *The Crime Fighter*. (New York: Broadway Books, 1999). Read chapters 5 and 7 (pages 92-119, and 149-177).

"Busted in New York: A Nighttime Walk Leads to Trouble" by Darryl Pinckney, *The New Yorker*, February 5, 2001.

George Kelling, How to Run a Police Department, *City Journal*, Autumn 1995. Available on-line at http://www.city-journal.org/html/5_4_how_to_run.html

Michael Massing, "The Blue Revolution," *The New York Review of Books*, November 19, 1998, p.32.

9. April 1 **Communities and policing**

Readings:
Michael Jacobson, "From the 'Back' to the 'Front': the Changing Character of Punishment in New York City." Chapter 10 in *Rethinking the Urban Agenda*, edited by Ken Emerson and John Mollenkopf (New York: Century Foundation, 2001).

David Kennedy, Anthony Braga, et al "The (Un)known universe: Mapping Gangs and gang violence in Boston." Crime Mapping and Crime Prevention edited by David Weisburd and Tom McEwan (Monsey, NJ: Criminal Justice Press, 1997).

Andrew White, "Fighting Crime and Gaining Favor," *The New York Times*, January 20, 2004, page A19.

Citizen's Crime Commission, *Police and Public Safety in New York*, January 2004. Read Part One.

William Tucker, "The Victim Myth: Do Black Communities Want to Fight the Crimefighters?" *New York Post*, January 4, 2003, p.15.

10. April 8 **Sex Crimes and Domestic Violence**

**Memo with outline and bibliography due*

Readings:
Phillipe Bourgois, *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, Cambridge University Press, 1995. Read pages 205-212

Deborah Sontag, "Fierce Entanglements," *The New York Times Magazine*, November 17, 2002.

Andrew White et al., "Healing Powers: Care for Victims of Sexual Abuse is in Short Supply," *Child Welfare Watch* No. 8, Fall 2002.

11. April 15 **Incarceration and the prison budget crisis**

***Readings*:**
Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, *Random Family*. Read Chapters 1 thru 20 (Pages 3 to 199)

Fox Butterfield, "Crime keeps on falling, but prisons keep on filling," *The New York Times,* September 28, 1997, section 4 p.1.

Todd Clear, 1996, "Backfire: When Incarceration Increases Crime," in *The Unintended Consequences of Incarceration*, New York: Vera Institute, January 1996. Available on-line at http://www.vera.org/publication_pdf/uci.pdf

Rachel Porter, Sophia Lee, and Mary Lutz, *Balancing Punishment and Treatment: Alternatives to Incarceration in New York City*. New York: Vera Institute of Justice, May 2002. Available on-line at http://www.vera.org/publication_pdf/164_251.pdf

12. April 22 **Communities and families: Impacts of incarceration**

Readings:
Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, *Random Family*. Read Chapters 21 thru 44 (Pages 200 to end)

Susan B. Tucker and Eric Cadora, "Justice Reinvestment," in *Ideas for an Open Society*, November 2003 (New York: Open Society Institute). Available on-line at http://www.soros.org/resources/articles_publications/publications/ideas_20040106/ideas_justice_reinvestment_reduced.pdf

Jeremy Travis, Elizabeth Cicotta et al. *Families Left Behind: The Hidden Costs of Incarceration and Reentry*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute, October 2003. Available on-line at http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310882_families_left_behind.pdf

Carol Shapiro and Meryl Schwartz, "Coming Home: Building on Family Connections," *Corrections Management Quarterly,* 2001, 5(3), 52-61. Available on-line at http://www.familyjusticeinc.org/pressrel/fjcominghome.doc

13. April 29 **Wall Street Crime**

Readings:
James B. Stewart, *Den of Thieves*. Read prologue and chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 , 7, 9, 10 and 12.

Adi Ignatius, "Wall Street's Top Cop," *Time*, December 30, 2002, p.64.

14. May 6 **Courts and Innovations**

** Final Policy Reports Due*

Readings:
Bruce Western, "Lawful Re-entry," *The American Prospect*, December 2003, p.54.

Greg Berman, "Red Hook Diary: Planning a Community Court." New York: Center for Court Innovation, 1998. Available on-line at http://www.courtinnovation.org/pdf/redhook_diary.pdf

Greg Berman and David Anderson, "Drugs, Courts and Neighborhoods: Community Reintegration and the Brooklyn Treatment Court." New York: Center for Court Innovation, 1999. Available on-line at http://www.courtinnovation.org/pdf/dru_cour_neigh.pdf

15. May 13 **Review and Wrap-up**