Political Science 2332

**Crime Control Policy**

**Fall 2017**

**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:

1. Kennedy, David M. *Don’t Shoot: One Man, a Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America*. New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2011. ISBN 978-1608194148.

2. Kennedy, Randall. *Race, Crime and the Law*. New York: Vintage Books, 1997.

ISBN 978-0375701849.

3. Kleiman, Mark. *When Brute Force Fails: How to Have Less Crime and Less Punishment*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009. ISBN 978-0691148649.

4. Wilson, James Q. and Petersilia, Joan, eds. *Crime and Public Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN 978-0195399356

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

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

7. Sendhil Mullainathan and Eldar Shafir, *Scarcity* ISBN-10: 125005611X

7. National Academies, *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States*

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/18613/the-growth-of-incarceration-in-the-united-states-exploring-causes>

(available for free download)

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/>

**Course Schedule and Assignments**

# WEEK 1

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

**Readings:**

* 1. Kleiman, *When Brute Force Fails:* Introduction & Ch. 1 – “The Trap”
  2. Wilson & Petersilia, *Crime and Public Policy:* Introduction and Ch. 21 - “Crime and Public Policy”

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

**Readings**:

1. Kleiman, *When Brute Force Fails:* Ch. 2 – “Thinking about Crime Control”
2. Blumstein, *Criminal Careers and Career Criminals Vol. 1:* Ch. 1 & 5 – pp. 12-30; 109-143
3. Wilson & Petersilia, *Crime and Public Policy:* Ch. 7 – “Labor Markets and Crime”
4. NAS, *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States:* (selections)
5. Sourcebook sections on criminal-justice budgets

# WEEK 2

# Crime Patterns and Crime Trends

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

# Readings:

# Sourcebook sections

# Wilson & Petersilia, *Crime and Public Policy:* Ch. 19 – “Changing Crime Rates”

# Kennedy, *Race, Crime and the Law [sections?]*

# Wikipedia, “*Crime in the United States”* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_in_the_United_States>

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

# Readings:

# NAS, *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States:* Ch. 4 – “The Underlying Causes of Rising Incarceration: Crime, Politics, and Social Change” <https://www.nap.edu/read/18613/chapter/6#107>

# Zimring, *The City That Became Safe [sections?]*

# *W*ikipedia, *“Crime Drop”* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_drop>

# Goldstein, *“10 Not Entirely Crazy Theories Explaining the Great Crime Decline”* <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2014/11/24/10-not-entirely-crazy-theories-explaining-the-great-crime-decline>

**WEEK 3**

# Monday, February 5: Deterrence - Crime as Choice [43+]

# Readings:

# 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 xliv.: Of Rewards.

# Chapter xlv.: Of Education.

# Chapter xlvii.: Conclusion

# 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?]*
2. Wilson & Petersilia, *Crime and Public Policy:* Ch. 14 – “General Deterrence: A Review of Recent Evidence”
3. Greenwood, *Three Strikes and You’re Out: Estimated Benefits and Costs of California’s New Mandatory Sentencing Law:* pp. xi-xvi; 17-30
4. Kleiman, *When Brute Force Fails:* Ch. 5 – “Crime Despite Punishment”
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:**

1. Kennedy, *Race, Crime, and the Law:* Ch. 5 – “Across the Race Divide”
2. Western and Pettit, *“Incarceration and Social Inequality”*

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# WEEK 5

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

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

**Readings:**

1. Wilson & Petersilia, *Crime and Public Policy*: Ch. 20 – “Democratic Policing on the Evidence”
2. Wilson & Kelling, *“Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety”*
3. Manski & Nagin,*”Assessing Benefits, Costs, and Disparate Racial Impacts of Confrontational Proactive Policing”*
4. Weisburd et al, *“Do Stop, Question, and Frisk Practices Deter Crime?”*

# WEEK 6

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

**Readings:**

1. Wilson & Petersilia, *Crime and Public Policy:* Ch. 15 – “Prosecution” and Ch. 16 –“Sentencing”
2. Kleiman, *When Brute Force Fails:* Ch. 6 – “Designing Enforcement Strategies”

**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:**

1. Wilson & Petersilia, *Crime and Public Policy:* Ch. 18 – “Prisons”

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

**\*\*MIDTERM DUE BY CLASS TIME\*\***

**Readings:**

1. Wilson & Petersilia, *Crime and Public Policy:* Ch. 17 – “Community Corrections: Probation, Parole, and Prisoner Reentry”
2. Hawken et. al., *“Managing Drug-Involved Offenders”*
3. Lattimore, *“HOPE Demonstration Field Experiment”*
4. Kilmer, *“Efficacy of Frequent Monitoring With Swift, Certain, and Modest Sanctions for Violations: Insights From South Dakota’s 24/7 Sobriety Project”*
5. Corbett, “*The Burdens of Leniency: The Changing Face of Probation”*

# 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”
3. Wilson & Petersilia, *Crime and Public Policy:* Ch. 3 – “Crime and Biology” and Ch. 5 – “Families and Crime”

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

**Readings:**

1. Kleiman, *When Brute Force Fails:* Ch. 9 – “Drug Policy for Crime Control”
2. Wilson & Petersilia, *Crime and Public Policy:* Ch. 13 – “Drugs, Crime, and Public Policy”
3. Kennedy, *Don’t Shoot:* Ch. 6 – “High Point: Truthtelling 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
3. US Dept of Justice,” *Reducing Gun Violence: The Boston Gun Project’s Operation Ceasefire”*

**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”
4. Donohue & Ayres, *“The Latest Misfires in Support of the More Guns, Less Crime Hypothesis”*

# 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”* <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/28/opinion/sessions-says-to-courts-go-ahead-jail-people-because-theyre-poor.html?smid=tw-nytopinion&smtyp=cur>

# WEEK 14

**Monday, April 23 – Police Management and Misconduct**

**Wednesday, April 25 – *Free Day***

# WEEK 15

**Monday, April 30 – What Could Go Wrong? / An Agenda for Crime Control I [25]**

**Readings:**

1. Kleiman, *When Brute Force Fails:* Ch. 10 – “What Could Go Wrong” and Ch. 11 – “An Agenda for Crime Control”

**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***