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**CCJ4497 Criminal Justice Policy**  
**College of Criminology and Criminal Justice**  
**Florida State University**  
**Spring 2022**

**Professor:** Dr. Julie Brancale

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**Office:** 201B Criminology & Criminal Justice Bldg

**Office Hours:** T 8:30-9:30am & 11:30am-1:00pm

R 8:30-9:30am, or by appointment

via Zoom

**Teaching Assistant:** Cole Ward

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**Office:** 211B Criminology & Criminal Justice Bldg

**Office Hours:** T 3:00-5:00pm, or by appointment

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**Course Meeting Information**

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:45am-11:00am, DIF201

**Course Overview and Objectives**

The development of criminal justice policies is heavily influenced by numerous factors, such as high-profile events, public opinion, politics, budgets, public safety, victim protection, offender punishment and rehabilitation, and sometimes, science. In this course, we will begin by describing the role of the United States Constitution in criminal justice policy and assessing the ways in which policies are enacted. We will then survey a series of the most impactful United States criminal justice policies. In doing so, we will focus on the policies' historical context, intended and unintended consequences, and measurable outcomes. At the end of the semester, we will describe strategies for designing and enacting effective criminal justice policies that meet their intended goals in a fair, just, and equitable manner.

After the successful completion of this course, you will have an understanding of:

1. How and why criminal justice policies are enacted in the United States.
2. The influence of public opinion, politics, public safety, victim protection, offender punishment and rehabilitation, budgets, and science on the policymaking process.
3. Major criminal justice policies that have been enacted across the United States, including their historical context, impact on measurable outcomes, and unintended consequences.
4. Major current proposed criminal justice policies.
5. How the impact and effectiveness of criminal justice policies are measured.
6. Strategies for designing and enacting effective, fair, and just criminal justice policies.

One of my main priorities is to help you obtain knowledge that will allow you to express your own informed opinions on the important issues surrounding criminal justice policy. Many of the topics we will cover may be controversial with no clear or single "right" answer. I encourage you to express your own point of view (in a respectful way) and ask that you remain open to the perspectives of others.

**Required Course Materials**

We will not use a textbook for this course. Rather, the required weekly readings will consist of articles, chapters, and websites that will be available in the *Modules* section of Canvas.

It is critical for you to read the assigned material before each class so that you are prepared to discuss and ask questions. It is your responsibility to read all material, as some exam questions will come solely from the assigned readings. If the readings change, an announcement will be made in class and posted on Canvas.

You must have regular access to a working, reliable, secure, and stable computer and internet connection for this course. Some Canvas features and course materials may not work well on phones or tablets, therefore accessing and completing assignments on a computer is critical.

### **Course Structure, Grading, and Policies**

This course will meet face-to-face on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The structure of each class meeting will vary based upon the topic we are covering that day. For example, some classes will be lecture-based, and others will be more discussion-based. Exams will be taken in-person during our regularly scheduled class time and during the university-scheduled final exam week.

#### Attendance

Attendance and grades are strongly positively correlated, therefore, to do well in this course, it is imperative that you attend each class, remain attentive, ask questions, and take detailed notes. If you miss a class session, be sure to get notes from one of your classmates; under no circumstances will your professor or teaching assistant's notes be given out. In addition, while we welcome questions and discussions during office hours or scheduled appointments, we will not re-lecture material if you miss class.

#### Classroom Environment and Etiquette

Some of the policies that we will discuss are going to be controversial, with students having very different opinions on what they believe is the "right" policy and what they believe is the "wrong" policy. These differing opinions are welcome and encouraged (not to mention, completely reflective of the realities of the policymaking process). Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, and you may not be disrespectful or dismissive of others' opinions. Please place cell phones on silent or turn them off, do not engage in telephone conversations, send text messages, browse the internet, or use social media during class time. You will be asked to leave class if these policies are violated.

#### Course Communication and Email

Course materials will be available in the *Modules* section of Canvas and links to submit assignments will be available in the *Assignments* section of Canvas. Important updates will be posted in the *Announcements* section of Canvas.

You should check our course Canvas site and your FSU email daily. Updates and important information will only be sent to your FSU account and shared via announcements on Canvas. Emails sent to your professor and teaching assistant must be respectful, include a subject with the course number or title, contain proper greetings and grammar, and include your full name at the end. Any questions about grades must be asked during a scheduled appointment. Your professor and teaching assistant cannot and will not discuss any specifics about your grade through email or on the phone.

## Grades

Grades in this course will be determined by your performance on the following course assessments: two exams, two position papers, and one fact sheet. Each of the assessments are briefly described below; more information will be provided in class and on Canvas. Late assessments will not be accepted. To avoid any technology-related issues that may result in the late submission of your work, please be sure to allow enough time before each deadline to submit your assignments. Your position papers and the fact sheet will be scanned through Turnitin (a plagiarism detection tool) and those with high similarity scores will be investigated and addressed in accordance with the FSU Honor Code.

## *Exams*

Exams are designed to assess your mastery of the course material and will be completed in-person during the regularly scheduled class time. Each exam can only be taken one time; re-takes are not permitted. Exams can only be taken on a different date if you have a valid, documented, and university-approved reason for missing the scheduled date. If you miss an exam, you must let your professor or teaching assistant know within 24 hours of the missed exam and the exam must be made-up within one week of the regularly scheduled exam. Make-ups (which include any exam not taken during the regularly scheduled class time) will consist entirely of essay questions and will be administered at a date/time of the professor's choosing. No exceptions will be made. A maximum of 100 points can be earned on each exam.

## *Position Papers*

A position paper is a concise document that presents facts toward the end of developing a defensible argument. In these papers, you will be asked to select a criminal justice policy, present evidence, and develop a defensible argument about your opinion. The end goal is to support your position with reliable evidence and show how it compares to other positions. You should seek to convince your audience of the merit of your position on the selected policy. The position papers must be submitted via Canvas by the specified due date and time. Late papers or those submitted via a means other than Canvas will not be accepted, no exceptions. Rewriting a paper after submission is not permitted. A maximum of 50 points can be earned on each position paper.

## *Fact Sheet*

A fact sheet is a one-page document that contains the most relevant information about a topic. The goal is to provide facts and key points in a clear, concise, and easy-to-understand way. In developing a fact sheet, you will synthesize relevant course material and outside research to describe a criminal justice policy. Your selected policy must be pre-approved by your professor or teaching assistant. A portion of your grade on the fact sheet will come from your submission of a proposal that describes which policy you have selected and why. The fact sheet must be submitted via Canvas by the specified due date and time. Late fact sheets or those submitted via a means other than Canvas will not be accepted, no exceptions. Redoing the assignment after submission is not permitted. A maximum of 75 points can be earned on the fact sheet.

## Course Grades and Grading Scale

Final course grades will not be curved or rounded. Individual extra credit opportunities or assignments will not be given to improve course grades or to replace required assignments or

exams. Your grades are not negotiable; the total number of points earned on the exams, position papers, and fact sheet will determine your final course grade, no exceptions.

Exams	2 x 100 =	200 points
Position Papers	2 x 50 =	100 points
Fact Sheet	1 x 75 =	75 points
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Total		375 points

Final grades will be assigned according to the following point ranges:

A 94-100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F 59% and below
A- 90-93%	B 84-86%	C 74-76%	D 64-66%	
	B- 80-83%	C- 70-73%	D- 60-63%	

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and subject to change with advance notice.

### **University Attendance Policy**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

### **Academic Honor Policy**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University."

<http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>

### **Academic Success**

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Dean of Students office to learn more.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course. To receive academic accommodations, a student:

- (1) must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS)
  - (2) must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type
  - (3) should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations.
- A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services

874 Traditions Way

108 Student Services Building

Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167

(850) 644-9566 (voice) | (850) 644-8504 (TDD) | oas@fsu.edu

<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

### Confidential Campus Resources

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program	Counseling & Psychological Services	University Health Services
University Center A, 4100	Askew Student Life Center	Health and Wellness Center
(850) 644-7161	(850) 644-8255	(850) 644-6230
<a href="https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap">https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap</a>	<a href="https://counseling.fsu.edu/">https://counseling.fsu.edu/</a>	<a href="https://uhs.fsu.edu/">https://uhs.fsu.edu/</a>
Available 24/7/365 Office Hours: M-F 8:00-5:00		

### COVID-19 Safety Protocols

All safety protocols and procedures that were utilized during the Fall 2021 semester will continue during the Spring 2022 semester. As stated by the Chancellor of the State University System of Florida and the Chair of the Board of Governors stated, we all share responsibility to remain vigilant and do our part to keep our communities safe and minimize the impact of COVID-19.

- Medical-grade face masks, such as N95 or KN95 masks, will be expected on campus. Cloth masks are less effective against the highly transmissible variants such as Delta and Omicron.
- PCR testing will continue to be available to all FSU students, faculty, and staff at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center. You can find more information at [uhs.fsu.edu/coronavirus/testing](https://uhs.fsu.edu/coronavirus/testing).
- COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots will continue to be offered and available during the spring semester to any interested students, faculty, and staff and to their eligible dependent children. We encourage everyone to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine/booster to help mitigate the spread of the virus. Spring vaccination clinic dates will be posted at [vaccine.fsu.edu](https://vaccine.fsu.edu) when available.
- You can learn more about the university's efforts and view the COVID-19 dashboard at [stayhealthy.fsu.edu](https://stayhealthy.fsu.edu).

## **Recording Class Lectures**

Students are permitted to make recordings of class lectures for a class in which the student is enrolled for personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as an educational presentation delivered by the instructor as part of a university course intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab or recitation sessions; student presentations (whether individually or part of a group); class discussions (except when incidental to the lecture); clinical practica and presentations involving patient histories and other protected health information; academic exercises involving student participation; test or examination administrations; field trips; and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty member is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance and recordings may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of FSU's Student Code of Conduct and will possibly have legal consequences. Students who record class lectures are asked to do so in ways that do not make others feel reluctant to ask questions, explore new ideas, or otherwise participate in class. Students must monitor their recording so that they do not include participation by other students without permission. Students with disabilities will continue to have appropriate accommodations for recordings as established by the Office of Accessibility Services.