

Translational Criminology & Politics
CCJ-6920 – Spring 2022
Tuesday 11:00am – 1:30pm EPS, Room 214

Instructor Information

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Course Objectives

The purpose of the course is to: (1) trace the development of the discipline criminology and criminal justice culminating in the current translational criminology movement, and (2) assess the necessary and combined role of Researcher Policymaker/Practitioner Partnerships and “Champions” to effectively navigate the political barriers routinely encountered in translating research into evidence-based criminal justice policies and practices.

Class lectures, discussions, readings, and assignments will include the current research activities of the Research & Policy Institutes of the College’s Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research. Each Research & Policy Institute’s Director will guest lecture. In addition, invited class guests will include Florida policymakers, legislators, legislative staff, and other leaders. Institute presentations will include ageing adult fraud; biosocial criminology; corrections; crime victims; hate crime; international and comparative criminology; jail research; juvenile and adult correctional education; juvenile justice; policing, security technology, and private security; and race and crime. Each Institute presentation will address major research questions, findings, and *translational* considerations for evidence-based policies and practices. The invited class guests will participate in discussion of how each Institute can move its *translational* efforts forward including next steps for implementing evidence-based criminal justice policies and practices.

The course objectives are that students will understand the background, development, and purposes of translational criminology, will gain an appreciation for the political and fiscal barriers to the use of research evidence in policy and practice, and will learn what can be done to effectively confront these barriers in the ongoing effort to translate research into evidence-based policies and practices that reduce crime and its numerous pain and suffering consequences.

Required Textbooks

Blomberg, Thomas and Karol Lucken. 2010. American Penology: A History of Control. Enlarged Second Edition. New Brunswick, NJ: Aldine Transaction Publishers.

ISBN: 978-0-202-36334-9

Blomberg, T.G., Brancale, J.M., Beaver, K.M., and Bales, W.D. (2016). Advancing Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy. London and New York: Routledge.

ISBN: 9781138829237

Other Readings: There will be other assigned readings based on the specific guest lectures, Institute Directors, and visiting policymakers and leaders. These readings will be posted on Canvas as they are assigned.

Course Requirements and Policies

In Person. All lectures and discussions will be in-person in the Criminology and Criminal Justice Building Room 214 and not online via Zoom, Canvas, etc.

Required Readings. Guest lecture topics, assigned readings, and assignments will be posted on Canvas and announced in class. It is your responsibility to keep track of all assigned readings.

Attendance. To do well in this course, you must attend each lecture. If you miss a class, you should get notes from one of your classmates. Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty 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.

To do well in this course, it is necessary for you to:

1. Attend each lecture and actively participate in class discussions,
2. Take careful and complete lecture and discussion session notes,
3. Complete all the assigned readings, and
4. Critically assess and respond in writing to class readings, lecture topics, and class discussions regarding the role of Translational Criminology in various criminal justice research and policy areas.

Questions. For questions about course material, assignments, grading or any other assistance please contact Dr. George Pesta gpesta@fsu.edu.

Electronics. All cell phones are to be turned off prior to the beginning of classes and remain off until the end of class. Do not text message, browse the Internet, or talk on your cell phone during class time; cell phones are disruptive to both the instructor and your classmates. If you plan to take notes on your computer, be sure you are only taking notes for this class. Do not browse the Internet or do work for any of your other classes. These requirements are to facilitate your learning and comprehension of course materials.

Assignments & Grading

The course will include 12 writing assignments that are designed to cover the course readings, lectures, and class discussions. Specific paper topics and assignments will be posted on Canvas. Below are the general descriptions and requirements of the assignments.

Position Paper. This assignment will be a *position paper* that covers the course introductory lectures and readings (i.e., the first 3 weeks of class). The *position paper* should be 3-4 pages in length (not including title pages and references). This paper is worth 15% of the course grade.

Reaction Papers. There will be 10 *reaction papers*, each specific to a given week's topic area, lecture, discussion, and readings. These *reaction papers* should be 2-3 pages in length (not including title pages and references). Combined, these papers are worth 70% of the course grade.

Course Summary Paper. The final *course summary paper* is your opportunity to provide suggested additions and refinements for the course. The *course summary paper* should be 3-4 pages in length (not including title pages and references). This paper is worth 15% of the course grade.

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." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <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.

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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; and,
- 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.

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. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
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
University Center A, Rm. 4100
(850) 644-7161
Available 24/7/365
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

Counseling and Psychological Services
Askew Student Life Center, 2nd floor
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-8255
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center

(850) 644-6230
<https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

Free Tutoring from FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

Class Recording Policy

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 practice 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 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.

COVID Language

- **We expect everyone to wear a face covering or mask at all times when inside any FSU facility, even if you are vaccinated.** This includes all of our students, faculty, staff, vendors and visitors. Recent studies and guidance from the CDC state that both unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals can transmit the current COVID-19 variant to unvaccinated persons. We expect you to help mitigate the spread by wearing a mask.
- **We expect everyone to be vaccinated against COVID-19, even if you've had COVID-19 in the past.** If possible, aim to be fully vaccinated, but if unable, strive to have at least one shot of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine no later than August 22. Please visit vaccine.fsu.edu for walk-in clinic dates and hours at the Tucker Center in Tallahassee or vaccines.gov to locate a COVID-19 vaccine provider near you.

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- **We expect you to stay home when sick, self-quarantine and get tested for COVID-19 no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms begin.** You can test for no cost at the Tucker Center. Schedule your test at uhs.fsu.edu/coronavirus/testing.
- **And finally, we expect you to continue to practice good hygiene habits such as washing your hands frequently.**

Syllabus Change Policy

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