

*January 15, 2016*

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
PROGRAM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**01:202:497(2) Evidence-based Crime Control  
Professor Piehl  
Spring 2016**

\*\*\*\*\*

Be prepared to discuss these two readings on the first day of class (see Sakai site for links):

- 1.) "Being Smart on Crime With Evidence-based Policing," by Chief Jim Bueermann (Ret.),  
National Institute of Justice Journal, no. 269.
- 2.) "FAQ: Evidence-based Practices in Criminal Justice Settings," Austin/Travis County  
Reentry Roundtable

\*\*\*\*\*

**Basics:**

Class meetings:

Mondays and Thursdays, 10:20 – 11:40am  
B115 Lucy Stone Hall

Instructor:

Professor Anne Morrison Piehl  
apiehl at economics rutgers edu

Office Hours:

Thursdays 1-3:00pm, New Jersey Hall 407 & by appointment

**Course Description:** "Evidence-based Crime Control" investigates the recent efforts of policing and corrections agencies to base program and policy choices on evidence of effectiveness. As the movement to incorporate evidence in program selection and design takes over in criminal justice the way it has in medicine, the ability to critically and confidently assess evidence becomes increasingly valuable. Topics of study include hot spots policing, targeting programs in prison, focused deterrence strategies such as Boston Ceasefire, early childhood interventions, neighborhood interventions, intensive supervision, earned release from prison, and other current policy concerns. In addition, special attention will be paid to standards of evidence, generalizability of results to other settings, and the importance of fidelity to program model.

Students will learn how to critically assess research designs and results for evidence of impact and appropriate targeting of interventions. Students will practice reporting technical information orally in class discussions and in writing on an exam and a term paper.

**Learning Outcomes:** This course aims to help students achieve all of the learning goals of the program in Criminal Justice. As an advanced seminar, the course requires students to develop their own scholarship, using critical thinking skills to build upon and reinforce the theory, institutional knowledge, and research methods covered in earlier courses in the major. (For the full description of the program's learning goals, see <http://nbcjm.rutgers.edu/academics/program-info/learning-goals>.)

**Prerequisites:** This course is limited to degree students. It requires introduction to criminal justice (202:201), police (202:202), prisons and prisoners (202:203) and satisfying the research methods requirement (202:307) (or equivalents).

**Academic Integrity:** "As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community."  
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Everything you submit for credit in this course must have been produced *on your own*. If you are unsure about proper citation of others' work, research how to do so. When in doubt about the format or whether it is necessary, include a note to that effect in the work. Plagiarism or cheating will be referred for investigation, following the policies and procedures detailed at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>.

**Disability Accommodation:** I follow University policies regarding accommodation of disabilities. If you anticipate needing an accommodation or have questions about accessibility, contact me immediately. I will honor reasonable, timely requests.

**Religious Observance:** If you will miss a course activity due to religious observance (that is, you abstain from secular activities that day), please let me know as soon as possible (by February 1) so we may make an alternate arrangement.

**Recording Policy:** Audio visual recording, transmission and distribution of class meetings is forbidden without explicit, prior permission of the professor and notification of other students in the class.

## Expectations and Grades:

*Required Readings:* All readings for the course are available online. These readings will be posted weekly on the course website on Sakai (<http://sakai.rutgers.edu>), either directly or through the Rutgers Libraries. (Note that you have access to the Rutgers Libraries from off-campus simply by logging in on the Rutgers Libraries homepage.) See the course website for instructions for accessing all readings. All readings are required unless explicitly stated otherwise. I expect you to complete the readings prior to the class session in which they are discussed.

*Participation (25%):* Class participation is required and only quality contributions will count for participation credit. If you have not done the readings, please do not be an aggressive participant so you do not derail the discussion of your peers who are prepared for class. 15% of this grade is for regular participation. 10% is for the day you are assigned to begin the discussion. I will describe expectations and assignments for “discussion starters” during the first week of class. This task requires a one-page analysis of the readings for that day to be submitted at the beginning of class.

*Midterm (30%):* An in-class exam will be given **Thursday March 10**. The exam will include short-answer, fact-based questions and essay questions. The essays will require you to apply the concepts and methods discussed in class and to organize and present clear and coherent arguments. I may ask you to reconcile conflicting findings of some of the assigned articles discussed in class; to interpret the results of the estimation of an empirical model; or to describe how you could apply the methods or theory of one of the readings discussed in class to other research or policy questions. If you miss an exam due to illness or a family emergency, you must contact me within 24 hours of the exam to inform me of your situation. Please e-mail me directly; do not rely on the absence reporting system if you miss an exam. Failure to contact me in a timely manner may result in a grade of zero for the exam.

*Outline (10%):* An outline for your final paper is due on **Monday April 18**. This outline must be extensive – two pages of written exposition of the main findings and argument, and outline for the remaining sections of the paper, and a preliminary list of references.

*Final Paper (35%):* This 12-15 page paper is due **Monday May 9** at 11am. It must address the primary class theme of the adequacy of evidence to inform policy or management in a particular area of criminal justice. The paper will draw upon class material along with at least two outside sources approved by the professor (at the time of the outline stage). We will discuss this assignment in more detail in class.

## **Student Wellness Services:**

There are many services that provide support for students. Please use any of these services – they exist for you. If you need help navigating these options, please talk to the professor before or after any class session.

### **Just In Case Web App**

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

### **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

[\(848\) 932-7884](tel:8489327884) / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ [rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

### **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

[\(848\) 932-1181](tel:8489321181) / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call [848-932-1181](tel:8489321181).

### **Disability Services**

[\(848\) 445-6800](tel:8484456800) / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

### **Scarlet Listeners**

[\(732\) 247-5555](tel:7322475555) / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.