

## **Advanced Criminal Justice Seminar**

01:202 488 B1

Monday and Thursday

12:00 Noon to 1:40 PM

**Lucy Stone Hall A143**

Dr. Robert T. Szejner, Ed D.

Criminal Justice Program

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays: 9:00 to 10:00 AM

Or by appointment

## **Program in Criminal Justice Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

### **Learning Goals: A Statement of Principles**

The Program Committee for the Program in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in New Brunswick has adopted a series of learning goals for students who complete the major. These goals represent the consensus of the faculty regarding the concepts a student should grasp and the skills a student should acquire in the course of completing the major. These goals guide the choices faculty make about the structure of the curriculum and the requirements for our majors. Moreover, they guide faculty and instructors preparing course material and teaching courses.

The Program in Criminal Justice will provide students with a rich understanding of crime and criminal justice in the United States and abroad through an interdisciplinary approach that blends a strong liberal arts educational experience with pre-professional instruction in the field of criminal justice. Graduates of the program will be well-informed citizens on the topic of crime and justice, and qualified for graduate study or for employment as practitioners in a variety of legal, policymaking, and law enforcement fields.

Criminal justice majors graduating from a research university should be able to use critical thinking, factual inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to individual and group behavior. In addition, students should have an understanding of the legal, political and policymaking processes that affect criminal justice systems in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Finally, students should be familiar with the institutional structures and latest developments in the field in order to engage in meaningful debate about current public policy issues.

## Learning Goals for Criminal Justice Majors

### 1. **Competence:**

- a.) **Theory.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand and be able to articulate, both orally and in writing, the core theoretical concepts that form the foundation of analysis and research in criminology and criminal justice today. Core concepts are derived from explanations of crime from a variety of perspectives, including biogenic, psychological, and sociological approaches. There are myriad theories of crime that are informed by these perspectives, including, classical, control, critical, ecology, labeling, learning, strain, and trait-based approaches. Theoretical literacy should extend to multicultural and international understanding.
  - b.) **Institutions.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand the special role of three types of institutions: Police, Corrections, and Courts. In addition, students should know how institutional forms vary across jurisdictions and how these institutions interact with and influence each other.
  - c.) **Research Methods.** Students who complete the criminal justice major should be familiar with the tools, techniques, and data sources necessary for empirical analysis. Students should understand the various ways that empirical analysis is used in the scientific approach: for description, for developing, and for testing theories. They should be able to analyze data using computer applications and should be familiar with basic statistical techniques and regression analysis. They should be able to read and assess research from a wide range of sources, including general interest, academic, and government publications.
2. **Critical Thinking:** Upon completion of the major students should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and quantitative tools to analyze and research real world problems, and evaluate alternative policy proposals on a range of criminal justice issues, from micro-level analyses relevant to particular cases to management concerns to macro-level analyses of legislative and other broad-scale policies. Accomplishment of this goal will require that students can apply their literacy and numeracy skills to different institutional structures, within the U.S. and across countries.
3. **Scholarship:** Qualified majors should have an opportunity through such avenues as advanced coursework, internships, and faculty interactions to conduct independent research on matters of central relevance to the field of criminal justice.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines the relationship between the Media and the Criminal Justice System and their implications on policies and practices for corrections, the courts and the police.

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

Crime and the Media. Muraskin, Roslyn & Domash, Shelly Feuer (2007). Pearson Education: Upper Saddle River NJ.

## **EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

Two Exams:	25 points each	<b>50 points</b>
Term Paper		<b>40 Points</b>
Civility Grade		<b>10 Points</b>
Total Semester Points		<b>100 Points</b>

## **TERM PAPER:**

Term Paper: One of the basic expectations of a 400 level course is that you complete at least one major written assignment. In the case of this course, it will consist of a research paper. The research paper for this course is a multi- academic discipline research paper of at least 10 pages in length, intended to address a media issue in the field of criminal justice.

A list of suggested topics is included at the end of this syllabus. The topic areas are guidelines and you have the ultimate opportunity and responsibility to develop the topic area to your own interests. The use of proper citation format is required. Most important, make sure that you present only your original work. The grading rubric for this assignment is located at the end of this syllabus.

You will submit a one-paragraph paper outline on or before class Thursday, **February 8, 2018**. Papers are due **Monday, April 16, 2018**.

## **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

## **CIVILITY GRADE**

Students are expected to attend every class. Additionally, students are required to participate in class discussions throughout the semester. Ten percent of the course grade is based upon this performance.

There will be several guest speakers throughout the semester whose experiences and insights will enhance the material presented in this course.

**TEXTBOOK is required at every class.**

**This syllabus is subject to change.**

Students unable to attend any examination on the assigned date, for **ANY** reason, are to notify the instructor **PRIOR** to the examination date and make arrangements for make-up exam. *Final exam is scheduled for Monday, **May 7, 2018 at 8:00AM.***

Students are encouraged to utilize any and all resources available to assist them with this course through the Rutgers University Learning Resource Center. Information regarding the services available is accessible at: <http://lrc.rutgers.edu>

## LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

- 1/18 Course Introduction.
- 1/22 Textbook Chapter 1: Overview: Crime and the Media. Headlines versus Reality.
- 1/25 Textbook Chapter 1: Overview: Crime and the Media. Headlines versus Reality; continued.
- 1/29 Textbook Chapter 2: What about the Media.
- 2/1 Textbook Chapter 3: The Relationship of Crime Reporting to the Fear of Crime.
- 2/5 Textbook Chapter 4: Crime and Reactions.  
Guest Speaker: Officer Arron Parks M.A.; Rutgers P.D..  
Guest Speaker: Officer Arron Parks M.A.; Rutgers P.D.
- 2/8 Textbook Chapter 5: The Salem Witch Trials.  
**TERM PAPER OUTLINE DUE.**
- 2/12 Textbook Chapter 6: The Scopes Monkey Trial (1925).
- 2/15 Textbook Chapter 7: The Menendez Brothers (1989).
- 2/19 Textbook Chapter 8: Colin Ferguson (1993).
- 2/22 NO CLASS. Research Day
- 2/26 Textbook Chapter 9: The O.J. Simpson Trial (1994).

- 3/1 Textbook Chapter 10: Jon Bonet Ramsey (1996).
- 3/5 Textbook Chapters: 11:Kobe Bryant (2003).
- 3/8 **Mid Term Examination**
- 3/12 & 3/15 NO CLASSES SEMESTER BREAK**
- 3/19 Textbook Chapter 12: Daniel Pelosi (2001).
- 3/22 Textbook Chapter 13: Elizabeth Ann Smart (2002).
- 3/26 Textbook Chapter 14: Scott Peterson (2004).
- 3/29 Textbook Chapter 15: Michael Jackson (2004).
- 4/2 Textbook Chapter 16: Female Criminals Depicted by the Media.
- 4/5 Textbook Chapter 17: A Star is Formed: Media Construction of the Female Criminal.
- 4/9 Textbook Chapter 18: Martha Stewart: This Case is about Lying.
- 4/12 Textbook Chapter 19: Can the Mass Media do Good?
- 4/16 Textbook Chapter 20: If a Story is not Depicted by the Media does it Exist? **TERM ASSIGNMENTS DUE No Late Assignments Accepted.** Oral Presentations of Term Assignments.
- 4/19 Textbook Chapter 20: If a Story is not Depicted by the Media, does it Exist? Continued Oral Presentations of Term Assignments
- 4/23 & 4/26 Textbook Chapter 21: Conclusion. Oral Presentations of Term Assignments
- 4/30 Course Review

**Advanced Seminar in Criminal Justice**

**Spring 2018**

**TERM PAPER ASSIGNMENT**

**GRADING RUBRIC**

**01-202-488-01**

<b>Spelling And Grammar</b>  <i>No Paper submitted.</i> <b>0 points</b>	<b><u>25 or more</u></b> spelling and grammar errors. <b>1 point</b>	<b><u>21 to 25</u></b> spelling and grammar errors. <b>2 points</b>	<b><u>16 to 20</u></b> spelling and grammar errors. <b>3 points</b>	<b><u>11 to 15</u></b> spelling and grammar errors. <b>4 points</b>	<b><u>6 to 10</u></b> spelling and grammar errors. <b>5 points</b>	<b><u>3 to 5</u></b> spelling and grammar errors. <b>6 points</b>	<b><u>0 to 2</u></b> spelling and grammar errors. <b>7 points</b>
<b>Content Pages</b>  <i>No Paper Submitted</i> <b>0 points</b>	<b><u>5 or less</u></b> Content Pages <b>1 point</b>	<b><u>6 or less</u></b> Content Pages <b>2 points</b>	<b><u>7 or less</u></b> Content Pages <b>3 points</b>	<b><u>8 or less</u></b> Content Pages <b>4 points</b>	<b><u>8 or less</u></b> Content Pages <b>5 points</b>	<b><u>9 or less</u></b> Content Pages <b>6 points</b>	<b><u>10 or more</u></b> Content Pages <b>7 points</b>
<b>Content: No Paper Submitted on April 16, 2018.</b>  <b>0 Points</b>	Poor conceptual continuity. Paper is not grounded in existing research on the topic. Paper is not written in an organized manner with an introduction, body and conclusion.  <b>10 Points</b>		Conceptual continuity is evident. Paper is grounded in existing research on the topic. Paper is written in an organized manner with an introduction, body and conclusion.  <b>20 Points</b>		Conceptual continuity enhances the paper. Paper is grounded on the topic. Paper is well written in an organized manner with an introduction, body and conclusion. Paper promotes continued research on the subject.  <b>26 Points</b>		

Maximum point score for term paper assignment is **40** points.

All papers are due on, or before Monday, **April 16, 2018**. All papers not received by that date will receive a grade of **0** for the assignment.

**NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

Students will be held to the academic integrity standards of this institution. Refer to: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity>. The university's position on Academic Integrity states: "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 offences against the entire academic community." <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>, section 1. Definitions of cheating and plagiarism can be found in section II. A. Be assured that all violations of academic integrity will be referred to the appropriate authorities and sanctioned accordingly. These sanctions can range from no credit on a particular assignment to expulsion from the University. See section II. B.

### **Student-Wellness Services:**

<http://m.appcreatorpro.com/m/rutgers/fda9f59ca5/fda9f59ca5.html>> Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>> <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 / 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 / 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.

### **Disability Services**

(848) 445-6800 / 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 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer-counseling and referral hotline, providing

## **SUGGESTED TOPICS**

- 1: The effects of media reporting on criminal justice matters.**
- 2: Which form of media most accurately depicts criminal justice issues?**
- 3: The effects of the media on criminal justice policy.**
- 4: Ethical obligations of the media in the reporting of criminal justice stories.**
- 5: Differences in reporting of criminal justice matters by media.**