HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**Faculty of Arts and Sciences**

**Department of Sociology**

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**SOC 193 – Fall 2014**

## CRIME, COMMUNITY, AND PUBLIC POLICY

Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, William James Hall 105

Section: Wednesday, 1:00pm – 2:00pm, CGIS K050

Thursday, 10:00am – 11:00am, Sever Hall 204

This course examines criminal justice from the perspective of local communities. Questions of how local communities affect and are affected by crime and criminal justice will be addressed. A central concern will be the discussion of characteristics of neighborhoods that lead to high rates of criminality and how federal, state, and local policies not directly concerned with crime policy may nonetheless bear on crime rates. Particular attention will be paid to structural factors associated with crime, such as joblessness, and community-level institutions, such as the schools.

In recent years, some criminal justice system officials, sensing that the public is losing confidence in their actions, have changed their approach to fighting crime. They have begun to devote more attention and resources to building healthy communities where criminality cannot take root and to making citizens partners rather than adversaries of the criminal justice system. We will examine the evolving role of criminal justice institutions in community-based crime prevention. Particular attention will be paid to drugs, guns, gangs and other urban crime problems as well as controversial topics in criminal justice, such as racial profiling and immigration and crime.

Students *must* enroll in the class on a letter-grade basis; no pass/fail petitions will be accepted. Students also *must* register for the class on Study Card Day; no late additions will be accepted.

Brielle Bryan (briellebryan@fas.harvard.edu) is the Teaching Fellow for this course.

**Required Texts**

There will be no required text for this course. Rather, specific journal articles and book chapters will be required for each class. All readings will be available through the course web page.

**Expectations**

Work for the course will consist of four components: (1) regular short reaction papers (15% of final grade); (2) mid-course exam (35% of final grade), (3) final research paper (35% of final grade), and (4) class participation (15% of final grade).

Regular short reaction papers

Over the course of the semester, students will be required to write brief reaction papers (no more than 2 double-spaced pages) based on personal reflection and commentary on the assigned readings and class materials. Reaction papers will be graded “check plus” (meaning “you have mastered the material and provided very interesting commentary”), “check” (meaning “you understood the material and provided relevant commentary”), or “check minus” (meaning “you missed the point on the material and/or did not provide relevant commentary”). Late reaction papers will be automatically assessed a check minus. Papers will not be accepted more than one class meeting late.

Mid-course exam

A mid-course exam will be held in class on **Monday, October 27**. **No make-up exams will be given. If you know that you can’t be present for the exam, don’t sign up for the course.**

Final research paper

Students will be required to submit a 15 page final research paper. Students taking the class for graduate credit will be required to submit a 20 page paper. These papers must make extensive use of relevant citations and follow a recognized reference style (Chicago, APA, or Turabian). All paper topics must be approved by the Teaching Fellows or me. **The final research paper will be due on Wednesday, December 3 at 5:00 pm.**

Class Participation

Students will be evaluated on their use of the readings and their ability to move our conversations forward in class and section discussion. Participation that indicates lack of awareness of the assigned material will not be viewed positively. Likewise, comments that do not move the discussion forward will not be viewed positively.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS**

**September 3 – Introduction and Class Overview**

**September 8 – Crime in Urban Communities and the Move towards Community Justice**

Required readings –

Robert J. Sampson. 2011. “The Community.” In *Crime and Public Policy*, edited by

James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia. New York: Oxford University Press.

Jens Ludwig and Julia Burdick-Will. 2012. “Poverty Deconcentration and the Prevention

of Crime.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Crime Prevention,* edited by Brandon C. Welsh

and David P. Farrington. New York: Oxford University Press.

Chapter 1 – “The Community Justice Movement.” In Todd Clear and David Karp. 1999. *The Community Justice Ideal: Preventing Crime and Achieving Justice*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Steven D. Levitt. 2004. “Understanding Why Crime Fell in the 1990s: Four Factors That

Explain the Decline and Six That Do Not.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18: 163 – 190.

**September 10 – Disorder and the Physical Environment of Neighborhoods**

Required readings –

Wesley Skogan. 2012. “Disorder and Crime.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Crime*

*Prevention,* edited by Brandon C. Welsh and David P. Farrington. New York: Oxford University Press.

James Q. Wilson and George Kelling. 1982. “Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety.” *Atlantic Monthly* (March): 29 – 38.

Chapter 4 in Malcolm Gladwell. 2000. *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*. New York: Little, Brown.

Bernard Harcourt and Jens Ludwig. 2006. “Broken Windows: New Evidence from New York City and a Five-city Experiment.” *University of Chicago Law Review,* 73: 271- 320.

**September 15 – Race, Immigration, and Crime**

Required readings –

Rod K. Brunson and Jacinta Gau. 2014. “Race, Place, and Policing the Inner-City.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Police and Policing*, edited by Michael D. Reisig and Robert J. Kane. New York: Oxford University Press.

Janet Lauritsen and Robert Sampson. 1998. “Minorities, Crime, and Criminal Justice.” In *The Handbook of Crime and Punishment*, edited by Michael Tonry. New York: Oxford University Press.

Robert J. Sampson. 2006. “Open Doors Don’t Invite Criminals: Is Increased Immigration Behind the Drop in Crime?” *New York Times*, March 11, p. A27.

Chapter 1 – “The Race Question in Criminal Law.” In Randall Kennedy. 1997. *Race, Crime, and the Law*. New York: Vintage Books.

**September 17 – Guest speaker** – Rev. Jeffrey Brown, Boston Ten Point Coalition

Required readings –

Rod K. Brunson, Anthony A. Braga, David M. Hureau, and Kashea Pegram. 2013. “We Trust You, But Not That Much: Examining Police–Black Clergy Partnerships to Reduce Youth Violence.” *Justice Quarterly* (forthcoming).

Christopher Winship and Jenny Berrien. 1999. “Boston Cops and Black Churches*.” The Public Interest*, 136: 52 – 68.

Dennis P. Rosenbaum and Amie M. Schuck. 2012. “Comprehensive Community

Partnerships for Preventing Crime.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Crime Prevention,* edited by Brandon C. Welsh and David P. Farrington. New York: Oxford University Press.

**September 22 – Families and Crime**

Required readings –

David P. Farrington. 2011. “Families and Crime.” In *Crime and Public Policy*, edited by

James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia. New York: Oxford University Press.

Terrie E. Moffitt, Stephen Ross, and Adrian Raine. 2011. “Crime and Biology.” In *Crime and Public Policy*, edited by James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia. New York: Oxford University Press.

Chapter 1 in Adrian Nicole LeBlanc. 2003. *Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and*

*Coming of Age in the Bronx.* New York: Scribner.

**September 24 – Schools and Crime**

Required readings –

Denise C. Gottfredson, Philip J. Cook, and Chongmin Na. 2012. “Schools and Prevention.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Crime Prevention,* edited by Brandon C. Welsh and David P. Farrington. New York: Oxford University Press.

Jeff Deeney. 2014. “How to Discipline Students Without Turning the School Into a Prison: New Guidelines From the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education Urge Schools to Abandon ‘Zero Tolerance’ Policies.” *The Atlantic*, January 9.

Chapter 3 in Katherine Newman. 2004. *Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings*. New York: Basic Books.

**September 29 – Urban Crime and the Stop Snitching Campaign**

Required readings –

Patrick Carr, Laura Napolitano, and Jessica Keating. 2007. “We Never Call the Cops

And Here is Why: A Qualitative Examination of Legal Cynicism in Three Philadelphia Neighborhoods.” *Criminology*, 45: 445 – 480.

Jeremy Kahn. 2007. “The Story of a Snitch.” *Atlantic Monthly*, April1.

Rachael A. Woldoff and Karen G. Weiss. 2010. “Stop Snitchin’: Exploring Definitions of the Snitch and Implications for Urban Black Communities.” *Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular* *Culture*, 17: 184 – 223.

**October 1 – Community Policing**

Required readings –

Chapter 3 – “The Failure of Past Policing Strategies.” In George Kelling and Catherine Coles. 1996. *Fixing Broken Windows: Restoring Order and Reducing Crime in Our Communities*. New York: The Free Press.

Wesley Skogan. 2006. “The Promise of Community Policing.” In *Police Innovation: Contrasting Perspectives,* edited by David L. Weisburd and Anthony A. Braga. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Tom Tyler. 2004. “Enhancing Police Legitimacy.” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 593: 84 – 99.

**October 6 – Police and Effective Crime Prevention**

Required readings –

Anthony A. Braga. 2014. “Problem-Oriented Policing: Principles, Practice, and Crime Prevention Effects.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Police and Policing*, edited by Michael D. Reisig and Robert J. Kane. New York: Oxford University Press.

David Weisburd and John Eck. 2004. “What Can Police Do to Reduce Crime, Disorder, and Fear?” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 593: 42 – 65.

Anthony A. Braga. 2012. “High Crime Places, Times, and Offenders.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Crime Prevention,* edited by Brandon C. Welsh and David P. Farrington. New York: Oxford University Press.

**October 8 – Guest speaker** – Superintendent-in-Chief William Gross, Boston Police Department

**October 13 – CLASS CANCELLED –** Columbus Day

**October 15 – Police Corruption and Lawful Policing**

Required readings –

Wesley Skogan and Tracey Meares. 2004. “Lawful Policing.” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 593: 66 – 83.

Chapter 4 – “The Troubled Boston PD.” In Dick Lehr. 2009. *The Fence: A Police Cover- Up Along Boston’s Racial Divide.* New York: Harper.

“Patterns of Police Corruption” – Pages 61 – 69 from *The Knapp Commission Report*.

Sanja Kutnjak Ivkovic. 2014. “Police Misconduct.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Police and Policing*, edited by Michael D. Reisig and Robert J. Kane. New York: Oxford University Press.

**October 20 – Guest speaker** – Commissioner Edward Davis (retired), Boston Police Department

Required readings –

Edward F. Davis, Alejandro Alves, and David Alan Sklansky. 2014. *Social Media and Police Leadership.* New Perspectives in Policing, 13. Washington, DC: US National Institute of Justice.

Herman Leonard, Christine Cole, Arnold Howitt, and Philip Heymann. 2014. *Why Was Boston Strong? Lessons from the Boston Marathon Bombing.* Cambridge, MA: Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

**October 22 – REVIEW FOR MIDCOURSE EXAM**

**October 27 – MIDCOURSE EXAM**

**October 29 – Community Prosecution**

Required readings –

Brian Forst. 2011. “Prosecution.” In *Crime and Public Policy*, edited by James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia. New York: Oxford University Press.

Barbara Boland. 1996. “What is Community Prosecution?” *National Institute of Justice Journal*, 231: 35 – 40.

William J. Stuntz. 2008. “Unequal Justice.” *Harvard Law Review*, 121: 1949 – 2040 (Please read 2019 – 2040).

**November 3 – The Impact of Mass Incarceration on Disadvantaged Neighborhoods**

Required readings –

Chapter 1, “The Problem of Concentrated Incarceration,” in Todd Clear. 2007. *Imprisoning Communities: How Mass Incarceration Makes Disadvantaged Neighborhoods Worse.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Bruce Western and Becky Pettit. 2010. “Incarceration and Social Inequality.” *Daedalus*,

8–19.

Anne Morrison Piehl and Bert Useem. 2011. “Prisons.” In *Crime and Public Policy*, edited by James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia. New York: Oxford University Press.

**November 5 – Community Corrections and Prisoner Reentry**

Required readings –

Joan Petersilia. 2011. “Community Corrections: Probation, Parole, and Prisoner Reentry.” In *Crime and Public Policy*, edited by James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia. New York: Oxford University Press.

Chapter 1 – “The Emerging Importance of Prisoner Reentry to Crime and the Community.” In Joan Petersilia. 2003. *When Prisoners Come Home*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Donald Braman and Jennifer Wood. 2003. “From One Generation to the Next: How Criminal Sanctions are Reshaping Family Life in Urban America.” In *Prisoners Once*

*Removed*, edited by Jeremy Travis and Michelle Waul. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press.

**November 10 – Gangs and Gang Violence**

Required readings –

Cheryl Maxson. 2011. “Street Gangs.” In *Crime and Public Policy*, edited by James Q.

Wilson and Joan Petersilia. New York: Oxford University Press.

Chapter 3 – “The War.” In Sanyika Shakur. 1993. *Monster: The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member*. New York: Penguin Books.

Jeffrey Fagan and Deanna Wilkinson. 1998. “Guns, Youth Violence, and Social Identity.” In *Youth Violence, Crime and Justice, Vol. 24*, edited by Michael Tonry and Mark H. Moore. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Anderson, Elijah. 1994. “The Code of the Streets.” *Atlantic Monthly*, May: 81 – 94.

**November 12 – Guest Speaker –** Assistant United States Attorney John Wortmann

**November 17 – Focused Deterrence Strategies to Reduce Gang Violence**

Required readings –

Chapters 1, 2, and 3 in David M. Kennedy. 2011. *Don’t Shoot: One Man, A Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America.* New York: Bloomsbury.

David M. Kennedy. 2009. “Drugs, Race, and Common Ground: Reflections on the High Point Intervention.” *National Institute of Justice Journal*, 262: 12 – 17.

**November 19 – CLASS CANCELLED**

**November 24 – Guns and Violence**

Required readings –

Chapter 10 in Geoffrey Canada. 1995. *Fist Stick Knife Gun.* Boston, MA: Beacon Press.

Philip J. Cook, Anthony A. Braga, and Mark Moore. 2011. “Gun Control.” In *Crime and Public Policy*, edited by James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia. New York: Oxford University Press.

Garen J. Wintemute, Anthony A. Braga, and David M. Kennedy. 2010. “Private-Party Gun Sales, Regulation, and Public Safety.” *The* *New England Journal of Medicine*, 363 (6): 508 – 513.

**November 26 – CLASS CANCELLED –** Thanksgiving Recess

**December 1 – Drugs and Crime**

Required readings –

David A. Boyum, Jonathan P. Caulkins, and Mark A. R. Kleiman. 2011. “Drugs, Crime, and Public Policy.” In *Crime and Public Policy*, edited by James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia. New York: Oxford University Press.

Chapter 3 – “Why Do Drug Dealers Still Live With Their Moms?” In Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. 2005. *Freakonomics.* New York: Harper Collins.

Chapter 3 – “New Jack: Learning to Do Drugs.” In Peter Moskos. 2008. *Cop in the Hood: My Year Policing Baltimore’s Eastern District.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

**December 3 – FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE**