



CJ 583-01W Criminal Justice Policy

**Course Syllabus: Summer II 2024
July 8, 2024 – August 8, 2024**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Willie Edwards, Professor
Office Location:	Ferguson Hall, Social Science Bldg., Rm 217
Office Hours:	Virtual office
Office Phone:	(903) 886-5331
Main Office Phone:	(903) 886-5332
University Email Address:	willie.edwards@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	(email)
Communication Response Time:	(within 24 hours during the weekday)

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook Required

Gau, Jacinta M. 2019. *Criminal Justice Policy: Origins and Effectiveness*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780190210939 (pbk.) ISBN 9780190859718 (looseleaf)

Additional Required Readings

Blumstein, A., & Piquero, A. R. 2007. Restore rationality to sentencing policy. *Criminology & Public Policy* 6(4), 679-688.

Clear, Todd R., & Natasha A. Frost. 2007. Informing public policy. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 6(4), 633-640.

Gest, T. 2018. What could a new crime commission accomplish? *Criminology & Public Policy*, 17(2), 497-511.

Gest, T. 2018. The courts in a fragmented criminal justice system. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 17(2), 309-320.

Greenberg, D. 2006. Criminological research and crime control policy: not a marriage made in heaven. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 5(2), 203-212.

Koper, C. S., & Lum, C. 2020. Editorial introduction to the special issue on policing. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 19(3), 691-692.

Nagin, D.S., & Koper, C. S. 2020. Policy recommendations for countering mass shootings in the United States. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 19(1), 9-15.

Ostrom, Brian J., & Roger A. Hanson. 2007. Implement and use court performance measures. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 6(4),799-806.

Roberts, A., & Smith, H.R. 2023. Police diversity and crime clearance for Black and Hispanic victims. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 22(2), 199-232.

Welsch, W., & Harris, P. 2016. "Chapter 3 Designing the program or policy," *Criminal justice policy and planning: Planned change*, 5th ed., pp 117-127. New York: Routledge.

Supplementary Readings

Mears, D.P. (2010). American criminal justice policy: An evaluation approach to increasing accountability and effectiveness. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-76246-5 Hardback and 978-0-521-74623-6 Paperback

Welsh, Wayne N. & Philip W. Harris (2016). *Criminal Justice Policy and Planning*, 5th Ed. Routledge Publisher.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to describe the steps involved in implementing a criminal justice policy.
2. Students will be able to identify the evaluation hierarchy of a criminal justice policy.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate a criminal justice policy.
4. Students will be able to identify research literature that addresses criminal justice policies and evaluates those policies.
5. Students must demonstrate awareness of public policy issues as they relate to the development, implementation, and evaluation of criminal justice policies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

This course will use the D2L Learning Management System. Students in this class may be required to use or be able to perform tasks employing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and using presentations and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

All assignments posted into D2L (our online system) must be on time (designated due time 11:59pm) and on or before the last designated due date. There will be no exceptions, or excuses for late assignments. There will be no make-up assignments.

Methods of Evaluation

(1) Initial Presentation

Every student must introduce him- or herself by the second day (no later than 11:59pm, July 9, 2024) of class during Week One. This information will be entered as a discussion. Each student should provide the below information at the site of the assignment in Week One. Each student's presentation should cover the following information:

- Name
- Occupation/career and length of time
- How this course is expected to help or aid your career, separate from the entire degree
- Indicate in brief terms or explanation/elaboration your level of awareness of criminal justice policies (the development, implementation, evaluation of)
- Describe how you expect this degree to enhance your career

(2) Chapter Questions

Each student must write a reply to a Chapter Question that is presented each week. In some weeks there will be two chapters students must read, so there will be two Chapter Questions required to be written. Each Chapter Question will be worth 25 points. Answers to the Chapter Questions must be submitted as written assignment due every Saturday by 11:59pm. Late submissions will not be accepted. There is no word or page count, but each answer must be succinct, detailed and of graduate quality. If resources are used or referred to then a proper citation must be included, using proper APA format.

(3) Research Article Review

Each student is responsible for finding and reading a professional journal research article pertaining to any aspect of a policy in reference to a criminal justice agency or some specific activity, responsibility, or program. Such research articles cannot be any of the research articles assigned by the professor, that are listed or identified here in the class syllabus. Students must present a summary of that research article covering the following areas/information:

- be sure to provide the complete bibliographic information
- address what policy matter or topic is the research article covering
- identify what appears to be the question, concern, or problem identified in the research article
- discuss or identify whether there is controversy, failure or improper implementation of a policy, program mentioned or described in the research article
- provide any necessary specifics, details so the reader may understand fully the purpose, focus of this research study or experience

This assignment must be submitted by July 21, 2024 by 11:59pm. Make sure to submit this assignment in its specific area titled Research Article Review in D2L. This assignment is worth 50 points.

(4) Required Reading Experience – Research Articles Assigned

Each student must select any three questions listed below to answer, write in an essay form based on the class assigned (required) research article readings (listed in the class syllabus). Your response (answer) to the question must be specific, detailed and obvious that you read the specific article to which the question refers. This assignment is due by July 29, 2024 by 11:59pm. This assignment is worth 90 points (each question/answer is worth 30 pts.). It should be placed in D2L, placed in its specific area titled Required Reading Experience. Select any three questions to answer and listed or labeled them as done here in the class syllabus:

4a.

(5) Develop a New Criminal Justice Policy

Each student is required to design/create/write a new, original criminal justice policy pertaining to an area, condition, problem, or new program associated with some aspect or specific criminal justice agency. Such a policy may be easier to develop if connected to a specific performance of a criminal justice component, such as policing and patrolling a hotspot; or another example say within corrections such as probation of offenders charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). It may be more challenging to develop a policy that addresses an entire subcomponent of the criminal justice system.

The developed criminal justice policy will be worth 200 points. This assignment is due August 10, 2024 by 11:59pm. Please use a cover page and the policy ought to be divided into parts or sections so it is easy to develop and read. Students should refer to such supplementary information/resources provided for this class as “Designing A Policy” taken from Welsh and Harris, *Criminal Justice Policy and Planning*, 5th edition. Students may use or review information from Mears’ *American Criminal Justice Policy: An Evaluation Approach to Increasing Accountability and Effectiveness*, 2010, New York: Cambridge University Press.

The following areas or items are expected to be included and fully developed in the policy paper. These items will also serve as a rubric for grading the policy paper.

1. Identify the name or title of the policy as well as the agency that would be responsible for implementing the policy/program (remember that policies are rules, principles, or guidelines that govern actions, while programs are social structures created to meet client needs; programs often come out of policies).
2. Identify the target population of the policy; explain how the target population is selected including any eligibility requirements.
3. Identify and explain the decision authority, or who has the authority to carry out the policy.
4. Identify and describe the provisions and procedures of the policy (make sure they are clear, specific, and consistent with the intent of the policymaker).
5. Identify and explain the policy goals.
6. Identify and explain the evaluation approach employed in the development of your policy.
7. The student must use references/resources where appropriate and make sure to provide proper citation using APA format.

Grading Scheme

1 Initial Presentation	20 pts
6 Chapter Questions @ 25pts., each	150 pts
1 Research Article Review	50 pts
3 Required Readings Experience – Research Articles Assigned	90 pts
1 Developed New Criminal Justice Policy	<u>200 pts</u>
Total	510 pts

Grading Scale

A = 510 – 459
B = 458 – 408
C = 407 – 357
D = 356 – 306
F = 305 and below

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myleo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/5brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your professor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Contact of Professor

Students needing to contact the Professor should do so by using his office email address. If necessary students may call the office number provided on the first page of the class syllabus. The Professor will contact you if a message is left by email or phone call within twenty-four (24) hours during the weekday.

Research Assistance

For research assistance, students should contact: Reference Librarian at Velma Waters Library Room 218; 903-886-5719 or <http://www.tamuc.edu/library>.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Academic Honesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment, the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In **ALL** instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating is defined as:

- Copying another's test or assignment
- Communication with another during an exam or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

Plagiarism is defined as:

- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source

Collusion is defined as:

- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing an assignment
If you have any questions regarding academic dishonesty, ask. Otherwise, I will assume that you have full knowledge of the academic dishonesty policy and agree to the conditions as set forth in this syllabus.

Students should also reference the following link for more detailed information.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/sociologyCriminalJustice/default.aspx>

Policy for Reporting Problems with D2L

Students who encounter D2L-based problems with submitting assignments/exams, etc., are required to do the following:

Call 1-866-656-5511 or 720-931-3847 (direct), or through the Online Chat by clicking on the “Tech Support” tab within your D2L course. You may also Email HelpDesk@tamuc.edu

Hours: The D2L helpdesk is open 24/7 to meet your needs.

Your call will be logged in, I will check with the Tech Support staff to confirm your call. Once I have confirmed your call, I will contact you regarding the issue.

Only D2L-based problems will be addressed. Make sure your internet connection is working and viable when taking tests or turning in assignments.

APA Citation Format Policy

It is very important that you learn how to cite properly. In some ways, citations are more important than the actual text of your paper/assignment. Therefore, you should take this task seriously and devote some time to understanding how to cite properly. If you take the time to understand this process up front, it will save you a significant amount of time in the long run (not to mention significant deductions in points).

In the social and behavioral sciences (including Criminal Justice), we use APA (American Psychological Association) format. As a rule of thumb, one cites whenever they are paraphrasing other people’s words or when they quote other’s words directly. You may learn to cite from a variety of different sources including the APA Tutorial and the sources listed below and in the CJ 500 Orientation Course.

www.apastyle.org

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>

www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa

It is the student’s responsibility to understand how to cite properly. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

Late Work

The way this course is designed, every course hour should be spent either working on your paper/posting a discussion/answering discussion or waiting for comments from your professor. If late papers are routinely accepted, it would be impossible for you to complete your work and the program. Therefore, I **strongly** suggest that should you need to turn in an assignment late, that you contact your professor **immediately**. It is completely within an instructor's discretion to allow or not allow late work in this course. Verifiable documentation will be requested/required.

Drop Course Policy

Students should take responsibility for dropping themselves from the course according to university policy should this become necessary.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures**Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information

regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Content Schedule – CJ 583.01W Summer II 2024

Week One – July 8, 2024 – July 14, 2024

Required Reading for Week One: Chapter 1- Introduction, Gau, *Criminal Justice Policy*.

Research Articles: Clear & Frost, 2007. “Informing Public Policy,” *Criminology and Public Policy*, 6(4), 633-640; and Greenberg, 2006. “Criminological research and crime control policy: Not a marriage made in heaven,” *Criminology and Public Policy*, 5(2), 203-212.

Week Assignments:

Chapter 1 Question “Introduction” (due Saturday, July 13, 2024 by 11:59pm):

Take up the position either for or against the statement (idea) that criminological and/or criminal justice scholars along with their research should be engaged in the development of much of this country’s criminal policies. Whichever position you take, provide at least one source that supports your idea. You will want to provide the reference for any used resources placed in any of the answers.

Week Two – July 15, 2024 – July 21, 2024

Required Reading for Week Two: Chapter 2 – Deterrence & Incapacitation, and Chapter 6 - Juvenile Justice, Gau, *Criminal Justice Policy*.

Research Articles: Gest, 2018. “The courts in a fragmented criminal justice system,” *Criminology and Public Policy*, 17(2), 309-320.

Week Assignments:

Chapter 2 Question “Deterrence and Incapacitation” (due Saturday, July 20, 2024

by 11:59pm): What is your perception, belief about the information found in Chapter two? The idea about deterrence and incapacitation and whether they have been successful in the response to the level of criminal activity within the United States. Have the practice, program, and policies worked or been successful? Develop a reply and incorporate some resources(s) that support your approach. Brevity will not be a good approach to this task. Those of you in law enforcement, share what you can but control the opinionating.

Chapter 6 Question “Juvenile Justice” (due Saturday, July 20, 2024 by 11:59pm): Juvenile system “displays a schizophrenic inconsistency in whether the intention is to treat, punish, or merely control juveniles; rehabilitation is the overarching goal, but punishment and control frequently take precedence over treatment” (Gau, p. 93). Take a position, interpret this statement by sharing your thoughts but by also supplying or supporting those thoughts with references (resources, research). To simply agree or disagree with the statement or repeat the words of the author will not earn you maximum points. Demonstrate some critical thinking or originality in your response.

Research Article Review due July 21, 2024 by 11:59pm (refer to p. 3 of class syllabus for description of assignment)

Week Three – July 22, 2024 – July 28, 2024

Required Reading for Week Three: Chapter 13 – Police Policy, Gau, *Criminal Justice Policy*.

Research Articles: Koper & Lum, 2020. “Editorial introduction to the special issue on policing,” *Criminology and Public Policy*, 19(3), 691-692; and Roberts & Smith, 2023. “Police diversity and crime clearance for Black and Hispanic victims,” *Criminology and Public Policy*, 22(2), 199-232.

Week Assignments:

Chapter 13 Question “Police Policy” (due July 27, 2024 Saturday by 11:59pm): Within this chapter there was a statement which was most essential within it: “one of the biggest challenges facing police today is how to be both effective and fair” (p. 222). What information from this chapter can you identify and add to that can suggest how police policies simultaneously reduce crime and improve the relationships with communities? Please employ references or resources where possible. Again, this is not an opportunity for you to expound on your opinion, but to share ideas, comments from resources you have read, if so proper citation will be in order.

Week Four – July 29, 2024 – August 4, 2024

Required Reading for Week Four: Chapter 3 – Drug Policy, and Chapter 14 – Correctional Treatment and Rehabilitation, Gau, *Criminal Justice Policy*.

Research Articles: Blumstein & Piquero, 2007. “Restore rationality to sentencing policy,” *Criminology and Public Policy*, 6(4), 679-688.

Week Assignments:

Required Reading Experience due July 29, 2024 by 11:59pm (refer to p. 4 of class syllabus for description of assignment)

Chapter 3 Question “Drug Policy” (due August 3, 2024 by 11:59pm): Take a position either supporting or challenging the “twisting” directions of the United States drug policy that our author addressed in Chapter three. In that process employ some resources that proclaim your selected position. Based on information in Chapter three how efficient or successful has handling the drug problem in the United States been, provide resources that reflect your thoughts or reaction.

Chapter 14 Question “Correctional Treatment and Rehabilitation” (due August 3, 2024 by 11:59pm): Punishment “does not [usually] reduce recidivism and may even worsen criminal behavior” (Gau, p. 240), but what did you read/learn in this chapter or from other resources that can encourage you to develop possible workable programs or policies to make or increase the success of punishment including incarceration or community-based treatment? A good reply (answer capable of receiving major point) will or should have some resources that lean toward a more engaged answer with some sense of expertise.

Week Five – August 5, 2024 – August 8, 2024

Required Reading for Week Five: Chapter 15 – New Horizons: The Promise of Community-Based Crime Control, Gau, *Criminal Justice Policy*.

Research Articles: Gest, 2018. “What could a new crime commission accomplish?” *Criminology and Public Policy*, 17(2), 497-511.

Week Assignment:

Chapter 15 Question (note special due date August 7, 2024 by 11:59pm): In this chapter there are several items, descriptions or possible use of professionalism that could be employed to strengthen, improve community-based crime control. Your task is to select one of those areas/items and address how research has or can improve the approach that is needed to reduce a community’s level of criminal activity within it. Employ more resources other than what is in this chapter to develop your response.

Develop a New Criminal Justice Policy due August 10, 2024 by 11:59pm (refer to p. 4 of class syllabus for description of assignment)