

**Pro-Seminar in Criminal Justice
CRIM 601
University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2021**

Lecture

Wednesday, 9:00-12:00 EST
Via Zoom

Instructor

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of what we know about crime and the criminal justice system in the United States and other developed nations. The purpose of the course is to increase your knowledge about how the U.S. criminal justice system works but we will also spend a great deal of time thinking about the quality of the available evidence and *how* we know what we know. This is a companion course to CRIM 634 which many of you will have taken last semester with Professor Ouss – to that end, we will focus on topics that were not covered in that course.

Course Readings

There is no textbook for the course. Each class has several assigned readings which I will make available on *Canvas* or by providing a URL to a website where the reading may be found. The readings are predominantly academic journal articles from the fields of criminology, economics, sociology, law, public health, medicine and statistics. However, there is also a mix of news articles from respected outlets such as the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, book chapters from edited volumes and policy briefs written for policymakers. Some of the journal articles are fairly technical – we will spend some time in lecture clarifying some of the more technical material you will encounter.

Evaluation

Your course grade will be based on three group-based presentations, class participation and a policy memo.

- Class Presentations – You will sign up to kick-start our class discussions **two times** during the semester. Along with your colleagues, you will prepare a presentation on assigned readings for the week. Each of the papers being presented should be allotted approximately 10 minutes. The expectation is that these presentations will be thoughtful, careful and thorough. You will also circulate a two-page summary of your assigned reading at least two days prior to lecture. [50%]
- Class Participation – As this is a seminar class, your participation is critical to the successful execution of the class. Regular participation is expected and the overall quality of your contributions will be an important component of your final grade. [45%]

- Biosketch – As this is an unusual year and I have not had the chance to meet you in person, I will ask that each of you send me a short biography about your background and academic interests. [5%]

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to abide by the University of Pennsylvania Code of Academic Integrity, which is contained below. Additional information about expected standards of intellectual honesty can be found here: <http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/index.html>

Since the University is an academic community, its fundamental purpose is the pursuit of knowledge. Essential to the success of this educational mission is a commitment to the principles of academic integrity. Every member of the University community is responsible for upholding the highest standards of honesty at all times. Students, as members of the community, are also responsible for adhering to the principles and spirit of the following Code of Academic Integrity.

Academic Dishonesty Definitions

Activities that have the effect or intention of interfering with education, pursuit of knowledge, or fair evaluation of a student's performance are prohibited. Examples of such activities include but are not limited to the following definitions:

- A. Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, material, or study aids in examinations or other academic work or preventing, or attempting to prevent, another from using authorized assistance, material, or study aids. Example: using a cheat sheet in a quiz or exam, altering a graded exam and resubmitting it for a better grade, etc.
- B. Plagiarism: Using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific or proper acknowledgment. Example: copying another person's paper, article, or computer work and submitting it for an assignment, cloning someone else's ideas without attribution, failing to use quotation marks where appropriate, etc.
- C. Fabrication: Submitting contrived or altered information in any academic exercise. Example: making up data for an experiment, fudging data, citing nonexistent articles, contriving sources, etc.
- D. Multiple submissions: submitting, without prior permission, any work submitted to fulfill another academic requirement.
- E. Misrepresentation of academic records: Misrepresentation of academic records: misrepresenting or tampering with or attempting to tamper with any portion of a student's transcripts or academic record, either before or after coming to the University of Pennsylvania. Example: forging a change of grade slip, tampering with computer records, falsifying academic information on one's resume, etc.
- F. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Knowingly helping or attempting to help another violate any provision of the Code. Example: working together on a take-home exam, etc.
- G. Unfair Advantage: Attempting to gain unauthorized advantage over fellow students in an academic exercise. Example: gaining or providing unauthorized access to examination materials, obstructing or interfering with another student's efforts in an academic exercise, lying about a need for an extension for an exam or paper, continuing to write even when time is up during an exam, destroying or keeping library materials for one's own use., etc.

*** If a student is unsure whether his action(s) constitute a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity, then it is that student's responsibility to consult with the instructor to clarify any ambiguities.s**

Topics Covered and Reading List

Class #1: Introduction to the U.S. Criminal Justice System / Crime in the United States

- The Nation's Two Crime Measures, Department of Justice, 2004, NCJ 122705.
 - Uniform Crime Reports, UCR Handbook, 2004 [read p. 7-40]
 - National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015.
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Class #2: Evaluating Empirical Evidence – Research Design in the Social Sciences

- Freedman, David (1991). “Statistical Models and Shoe Leather,” *Sociological Methodology* 21: 291-313.
 - DiNardo, John E. and Jorn-Steffen Pischke (1997). “The Returns to Computer Use Revisited: Have Pencils Changed the Wage Structure Too?,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112(1): 291-303.
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Class #3: “Broken Windows” Policing

- Article: Kelling, George L. and James Q. Wilson (1982). “Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety,” *The Atlantic*, March, 19-38.
- MacDonald, John, Jeffrey Fagan and Amanda Geller (2016). “The Effects of Local Police Surges on Crime and Arrests in New York City,” *PLoS one* 11(6).
- Chalfin, Aaron, Michael LaForest and Jacob Kaplan (2020). “Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violence? Evidence from Gang Takedowns in New York City,” Working Paper. [Guest Lecture: Mike LaForest, Penn State Criminology]
- Keizer, Kees, Siegwart Lindenberg and Linda Steg (2008). “The Spreading of Disorder,” *Science* 322(5908): 1681-1685.
- Braga, Anthony A. and Brenda J. Bond (2008). “Policing Crime and Disorder Hot Spots: A Randomized Controlled Trial,” *Criminology* 46(3): 577-607.
- Sullivan, Christopher M. and Zachary P. O’Keefe (2017). “Evidence that Curtailing Proactive Policing Can Reduce Major Crime,” *Nature Human Behavior* 1: 730-737.
- Ratcliffe, Jerry H., Elizabeth R. Groff, Evan T. Sorg and Cory P. Haberman (2015). “Citizens’ Reactions to Hot Spots Policing: Impacts on Perceptions of Crime, Disorder, Safety and Police,” *Journal of Experimental Criminology* 11: 393-417.

Class #4: Police Discrimination

- **Goel, Sharad, Justin M. Rao and Ravi Shroff (2016).** “Precinct or Prejudice: Understanding Racial Disparities in New York City’s Stop-and-Frisk Policy,” *Annals of Applied Statistics* 10(1): 365-394.
 - **Goncalves, Felipe and Steven Mello (2020).** “A Few Bad Apples? Racial Bias in Policing,” *The American Economic Review*, forthcoming.
 - **Engel, Robin (2008).** “A Critique of the Outcome Test in Racial Profiling Research,” *Justice Quarterly* 25(1): 1-36.
 - **Grogger, Jeffrey and Greg Ridgeway (2006).** “Testing for Racial Profiling in Traffic Stops from Behind a Veil of Darkness,” *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 101(475): 878-887.
 - **West, Jeremy (2018).** “Racial Bias in Police Investigations,” Working Paper.
 - **Brunson, Rod K. and Brian A. Wade (2019).** “Oh Hell No, We Don’t Talk to Police,” *Criminology & Public Policy* 18(3): 623-648.
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Class #5: Police Use of Force

- **Article: Mullainathan, Sendhil.** “Police Killings of Blacks: Here is What the Data Say,” *The New York Times*, October 16, 2015.
- **Blog Post: Simonsohn, Uri.** “Teenagers in Bikinis: Interpreting Police-Shooting Data,” July 14, 2016.
- **Sierra-Arevalo, Michael. (2020).** “American Policing and the Danger Imperative,” Working Paper.
- **Fryer, Roland G. (2019).** “An Empirical Analysis of Racial Differences in Police Use of Force,” *Journal of Political Economy* 127(3): 1210-1261.
- **Edwards, Frank, Hedwig Lee and Michael Esposito (2019).** “Risk of Being Killed by Police Use of Force in the United States, By Age, Race-Ethnicity and Sex,” *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science* 116(34): 16793-16798.
- **Quispe-Torreblanca, Edika G. and Neil Stewart (2019).** “Causal Peer Effects in Police Misconduct,” *Nature Human Behavior* 3(8): 797-807.
- **Ridgeway, Greg (2016).** “Officer Risk Factors Associated with Police Shootings: A Matched Case-Control Study,” *Statistics and Public Policy* 3(1): 1-6.

Class #6: Police Reform I.

- Walker, Samuel, Geoffrey P. Alpert and Dennis J. Kenney (2000). “Early Warning Systems for Police: Concept, History, and Issues,” *Police Quarterly* 3(2).
 - Stoddard, Greg and Jens Ludwig (2020). “Title TBD: Predicting Police Misconduct,” Working Paper [Guest Lecture: Greg Stoddard, University of Chicago Crime Lab]
 - White, Michael D. and Robert J. Kane (2013). “Pathways to Career-Ending Police Misconduct: An Examination of Patterns, Timing and Organizational Responses to Officer Malfeasance in the NYPD,” *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 40(11): 1301-1325.
 - Chalfin, Aaron and Jacob Kaplan (2020). “How Many Complaints Against Police Officers Can Be Abated By Incapacitating a Few Bad Apples,” Working Paper.
 - Grunwald, Benjamin and John Rappaport (2019). “The Wandering Officer,” *Yale Law Journal* 129.
 - Rappaport, John (2017). “How Private Insurers Regulate Police,” *Harvard Law Review* 130: 1539.
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Class #7: Police Reform II.

- Alpert, Geoffrey, Karen Amendola, Emily Owens and David Weisburd (2018). “Can You Build a Better Cop? Experimental Evidence on Supervisory Strategies and Policing in the Community,” *Criminology & Public Policy* 17(1): 41-87.
 - Goncalves, Felipe (2020). “Do Police Unions Increase Misconduct?,” Working Paper. [Guest Lecture: Felipe Goncalves, UCLA Economics]
 - Wood, George, Tom R. Tyler, and Andrew V. Papachristos (2020). "Procedural justice training reduces police use of force and complaints against officers." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117(18): 9815-9821.
 - Mummolo, Jonathan (2018). "Modern police tactics, police-citizen interactions, and the prospects for reform." *The Journal of Politics* 80(1): 1-15.
 - Chalfin, Aaron, Benjamin Hansen, Emily Weisburd and Morgan C. Williams Jr. (2020). “Police Force Size and Civilian Race,” NBER Working Paper No. 28202.
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Class #8: Technology and Policing

- Article: Hvistendahl, Mara. “Can Predictive Policing Prevent Crime Before It Happens?,” *Science Magazine*, September 28, 2016.

- **Jessica Saunders, Priscillia Hunt, and John S. Hollywood (2016). “Predictions put into practice: a quasi-experimental evaluation of Chicago’s predictive policing pilot.” *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 12: 347-371.**
- **Kim, Taeho (2020). “Facilitating Police Reform: Body Cameras, Use of Force, and Law Enforcement Outcomes,” Working Paper. [Guest Lecture: Taeho Kim, UChicago Economics]**
- Barak Ariel, Alex Sutherland, Darren Henstock, Josh Young, Paul Drover, Jayne Sykes, Simon Megicks, and Ryan Henderson (2016). “Wearing body cameras increases assaults against officers and does not reduce police use of force: Results from a global multi-site experiment.” *European Journal of Criminology*, 13(6): 744-755.
- Unknown authors. (2020). "Body Worn Cameras, Lawful Police Stops, and NYPD Officer Compliance: A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial," Working Paper.
- Hunt, Priscilia, Jessica Saunders and John S. Hollywood (2014). “Evaluation of the Shreveport Predictive Policing Experiment,” RAND Corporation.
- Casady, T. K., Cottingham, I., Ramírez, J. P., Samal, A., Tomkins, A. J., Farrell, K., ... & Shank, N. (2015). A Randomized-Trial Evaluation of a Law Enforcement Application for Smartphones and Laptops that Uses GIS and Location-Based Services’ to Pinpoint Persons-of-Interest, NIJ Report.

Class #9: Incentives and Policing

- **Chalfin, Aaron and Felipe Goncalves (2020). “The Pro-Social Motivations of Police Officers,” Working Paper.**
- **Schwartz, Joanna (2020). “Allocating the Costs of Police Misconduct Litigation: Available Evidence and a Research Agenda,” Arnold Ventures White Paper.**
- **Makowsky, Michael D. (2020). “Revenue-Motivated Law Enforcement: Evidence, Consequences, and Policy Solutions,” Arnold Ventures White Paper.**
- Makowsky, Michael D. and Thomas Stratmann (2009). “Political Economy at Any Speed: What Determines Traffic Citations?,” *The American Economic Review* 99 (1), 509–27.
- Kelly, Brian D. and Maureen Kole (2015). “The Effects of Asset Forfeiture on Policing: A Panel Approach,” *Economic Inquiry* 54(1): 558-575.
- Bove, Vincenzo and Evelina Gavrilova (2017). “Police Officer on the Frontline or Soldier? The Effect of Police Militarization on Crime,” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 9(3): 1-18.

Class #10: Alternatives to Policing

- **Chalfin, Aaron, Benjamin Hansen, Jason Lerner and Lucie Parker (2019).** “Reducing Crime Through Environmental Design: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment of Street Lighting in New York City,” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, forthcoming [Guest lecture: Me]
 - **Heller, Sara B., Anuj K. Shah, Jonathan Guryan, Jens Ludwig, Sendhil Mullainathan, and Harold A. Pollack.** "Thinking, fast and slow? Some field experiments to reduce crime and dropout in Chicago." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 132, no. 1 (2017): 1-54.
 - **Branas, C. C., South, E., Kondo, M. C., Hohl, B. C., Bourgois, P., Wiebe, D. J., and MacDonald, J. M. (2018).** “Citywide cluster randomized trial to restore blighted vacant land and its effects on violence, crime, and fear,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(12):2946–2951.
 - **Sharkey, Patrick, Gerard Torrats-Espinosa, and Delaram Takyar (2017).** "Community and the Crime Decline: The Causal Effect of Local Nonprofits on Violent Crime." *American Sociological Review* 82(6): 1214-1240.
 - **Fone, Zachary S., Joseph J. Sabia and Resul Cesur (2019).** “Do Minimum Wage Increases Reduce Crime?,” NBER Working Paper No. 25647.
 - **Braga, Anthony A. and David L. Weisburd (2012).** “The Effects of “Pulling Levers” Focused Deterrence Strategies on Crime,” Campbell Systematic Reviews.
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Class #11: Bail and Pre-Trial Detention

- **Article: Pinto, Nick.** “The Bail Trap,” *The New York Times*, August 13, 2015.
- **Article: Dewan, Shalia.** “When Bail is Out of Defendant’s Reach, Other Costs Mount,” *The New York Times*, June 10, 2015
- **Article: Fertig, Beth.** “City’s Jail Population Rises After Bail Reform Gets a Rewrite,” *Gothamist*, December 21, 2020.
- **Stevenson, Megan (2016).** “Distortion of Justice: How the Inability to Pay Bail Affects Case Outcomes,” *The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 34(4): 511-542.
- **Ouss, Aurelie and Megan Stevenson (2020).** “Bail, Jail, and Pretrial Misconduct: The Influence of Prosecutors,” Working Paper. [Guest Lecture: Aurelie Ouss, UPenn Criminology]
- **Stevenson, Megan and Jennifer Doleac (2020).** “Algorithmic Risk Assessment in the Hands of Humans,” Working Paper.

- Leslie, Emily and Nolan G. Pope (2017). "The Unintended Impact of Pretrial Detention on Case Outcomes: Evidence from New York City Arraignments," *The Journal of Law & Economics* 60(3): 529-557.
 - Dobbie, Will, and Crystal Yang (2019). "Proposals for Improving the U.S. Pretrial System." *Brookings Institution*.
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Class #12a: Domestic Violence

- **Article: Mueller, Benjamin and Al Baker. "A Familiar Pattern in a Spouse's Final Act,"** *The New York Times*, April 9, 2016.
- **Chin, Yoo-Mi and Scott Cunningham (2019). "Revisiting the Effect of Warrantless Domestic Violence Arrests on Intimate Partner Homicides,"** *Journal of Public Economics* 179.
- Davis, Robert C., Christopher D. Maxwell and Bruce Taylor (2006). "Preventing Repeat Incidents of Family Violence: Analysis of Data from Three Field Experiments," *Journal of Experimental Criminology* 2(2): 183-210.
- Mills, Linda G., Briana Barocas, Robert P. Butters and Barak Ariel (2019). "A Randomized Controlled Trial of Restorative Justice-Informed Treatment for Domestic Violence Crimes," *Nature Human Behavior* 3: 1284-1294.

Class #12b: Underground Sex Markets

- **Article: Kaplan, Joshua and Joaquin Sapien. "NYPD Cops Cash in on Sex Trade Arrests with Little Evidence, While Black and Brown New Yorkers Pay the Price,"** Propublica, December 7th, 2020.
 - **Cunningham, Scott and Manisha Shah (2018). "Decriminalizing Indoor Prostitution: Implications for Sexual Violence and Public Health,"** *The Review of Economic Studies* 85(3): 1683-1715.
 - Jakobsson, Nikas and Andreas Kotsdam (2013). "The Law and Economics of International Sex Slavery: Prostitution Laws and Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation," *European Journal of Law and Economics* 35: 87-107.
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Class #13a: Ex-Offenders

- **Article: Doleac, Jennifer. "More Job Opportunities, Less Recidivism,"** *Real Clear Policy*, December 15, 2016.

- **Agan, Amanda and Sonja Starr (2017). “Ban the Box, Criminal Records and Racial Discrimination: A Field Experiment,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133(1): 191-235.**
- Harding, David J., Jessica J.B. Wyse, Cheyney Dobson and Jeffrey D. Morenoff (2014). “Making Ends Meet After Prison,” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 33(2): 440-470.
- Rhodes, William, Gerald Gaes, Jeremy Luallen, Ryan Kling, Tom Rich and Michael Shively (2014). “Following Incarceration, Most Released Offenders Never Return to Prison,” *Crime & Delinquency* 62(8): 1003-1025.

Class #13b: Mental Health and Crime

- **Deza, Monica, Catherine Maclean and Keisha Solomon (2020). “Access to Mental Healthcare and Crime,” Working Paper. [Guest Lecture: Monica Deza, CUNY Economics]**
- Jacome, Elisa (2020). “Mental Health and Criminal Involvement: Evidence from Losing Medicaid Eligibility, Working Paper.

Class #14: Immigration Enforcement and Crime

- **Chalfin, Aaron and Monica Deza (2019). “New Evidence on Mexican Immigration and Crime in the United States: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Immigration Enforcement,” *Criminology & Public Policy* (forthcoming)**
- **Jacome, Elisa (2020). “The Effect of Immigration Enforcement on Crime Reporting: Evidence from Dallas,” Working Paper. [Guest Lecture: Elisa Jacome, Princeton Economics]**
- Miles, Thomas J. and Adam B. Cox (2014). “Does Immigration Enforcement Reduce Crime? Evidence from Secure Communities,” *The Journal of Law and Economics* 57(4): 937-973.
- Freedman, Matthew, Emily Owens and Sarah Bohn (2017). “Immigration, Employment Opportunities and Criminal Behavior,” forthcoming in *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.
- Camarota, Steven A. and Jessica M. Vaughn (2009). “Immigration and Crime: Assessing a Conflicted Issue,” Center for Immigration Studies White Paper.