

## Course Syllabus

### Course Information

<i>Course Number/Section</i>	CRIM 6311
<i>Course Title</i>	Crime & Justice Policy
<i>Term</i>	Spring 2025
<i>Class Time &amp; Location</i>	Wednesdays, 7:00pm to 9:45pm, CB 1.102

### Professor Contact Information

<i>Professor</i>	Dr. Lynne Vieraitis
<i>Office Phone</i>	972-883-6901
<i>Other Phone</i>	
<i>Email Address</i>	lynnev@utdallas.edu
<i>Office Location</i>	GR 2.120
<i>Office Hours</i>	By appointment
<i>Other Information</i>	

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### Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Restricted to students in graduate standing. Students should have a solid foundation in criminological theory and research methods.

### Course Description

Crime and Justice Policy is an introduction to crime and the efforts to control crime through public policy.

### Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Examine the social and political context in which policy develops.
- Understand and critically assess the roles of theory and research for policy.
- Understand programs and strategies to prevent and control crime and the empirical research on their effectiveness.

### Required Textbooks and Materials

1. Mears, Daniel P. 2010. *American Criminal Justice Policy: An Evaluation Approach to Increasing Accountability and Effectiveness*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Butterfield, Fox. 2018. *In My Father's House: A New View of How Crime Runs in the Family*. Vintage Books.
3. Leovy, Jill. 2015. *Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America*. Spiegel & Grau.
4. Sharkey, Patrick. 2018. *Uneasy Peace: The Great Crime Decline, the Renewal of City Life, and the Next War on Violence*. W. W. Norton.
5. Carr, Patrick J. 2005. *Clean Streets: Controlling Crime, Maintaining Order, and Building Community Activism*. NYU Press.
6. Brayne, Sarah. 2020. *Predict and Surveil*. Oxford University Press.
7. Rios, Victor. 2011. *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*. NYU Press.

8. Martin, Liam. 2021. *Halfway House: Prisoner Reentry and the Shadow of Carceral Care*. NYU Press.
9. Gottschalk, Marie. 2016. *Caught: The Prison State and the Lockdown of American Politics*. Princeton.

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR (subject to change)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Week 1</b>			
Jan 22	Introductions; Course Overview		
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<b>Week 2</b>			
Jan 29	Evaluating Policy	Mears, <i>American CJ Policy</i>	Assignment 1 Due 1/29 at 7:00 pm in class
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<b>Week 3</b>			
Feb 5	Understanding the Problem: <i>Criminality</i> Addressing the Problem with Evidence-Based Policy	Butterfield, <i>In My Father's House</i>	Assignment 2 Due 2/5 at 7:00 pm in class
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<b>Week 4</b>			
Feb 12	<i>Neighborhood Violence</i>	Leovy, <i>Ghettoside</i>	Assignment 3 Due 2/12 at 7:00 pm in class
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<b>Week 5</b>			
Feb 19	<i>Communities &amp; Crime</i>	Sharkey, <i>Uneasy Peace</i>	Assignment 4 Due 2/19 at 7:00 pm in class
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<b>Week 6</b>			
Feb 26	<i>Policing</i>	Brayne, <i>Predict &amp; Surveil</i>	Assignment 5 Due 2/26 at 7:00 pm in class
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<b>Week 7</b>			
Mar 5	<i>Policing</i>	Rios, <i>Punished</i>	Assignment 6 Due 3/5 At 7:00 pm in class
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<b>Week 8</b>			
Mar 12	TBD		
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<b>Week 9</b>			
March 17-21	<b>Spring Break</b>		

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<b>Week 10</b>			
Mar 26	<i>Community Organizations</i>	<i>Carr, Clean Streets</i>	Assignment 7 Due 3/26 At 7:00 pm in class

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<b>Week 11</b>			
Apr 2	<i>Corrections</i>	<i>Martin, Halfway House</i>	Assignment 8 Due 4/2 At 7:00 pm in class

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<b>Week 12</b>			
Apr 9	<i>Criminal Justice System</i>	<i>Gottschalk, Caught</i>	Assignment 9 Due 4/9 at 7:00 pm in class

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<b>Week 13</b>			
Apr 16	Work on Policy Briefs		

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<b>Week 14</b>			
Apr 23	Presentations		

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<b>Week 15</b>			
Apr 30	Presentations, cont.		

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<b>Week 16</b>			
May 7	Policy Brief Due in eLearning at 7:00 pm Presentations, cont.		

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## Grading Policy

### Assignments 1-9

The assignments will include two sections:

1. First, summarize the major points of the book. What are the main takeaways? Think about this within the context of Mears' work. For example, does it identify a need? Does it have implications for policies we are currently employing to control crime? Does it raise questions about funding policing, courts, or corrections? (Assignments 2-9).\*
2. Second, find one empirical article published in peer-reviewed journals that support, refute, or provide further clarification for an issue raised in the reading. The articles must be empirical, published in peer-reviewed journals, and published in 2019 or later. Provide the full citation for the article (APA or ASA format), followed by a summary of the article that includes the research question, data and methods, and results. In other words, what did they do, how did they do it, and what did they find? This summary must be in your own words and must be able to be understood by the general public, policymakers, or other stakeholders.

\*For Assignment 1, summarize the major points regarding the problem with evaluating policy and why we need better evaluations. Next, find two empirical articles published in peer-reviewed journals that evaluate a policy. These articles must be two different (of the 5) types of evaluations discussed in Mears.

**PLEASE NOTE, THE ARTICLES YOU SELECT MAY NOT BE THE SAME ARTICLES DISCUSSED IN THE BOOKS.**

Format: Use 12 point font and 1” margins. Include a reference page and in-text citations where needed (including the assigned reading). Please be sure that essays are double-spaced, and well-written.

**Participation:** (1) Attend class. You can’t participate if you are not in class! (2) For each assignment, students are required to present their summaries of the readings and empirical articles to the class. Remember, the audience—general public, policymakers or other stakeholders—to whom you are presenting.

**Final Project: Policy Brief:** Instructions will be discussed in class and posted in eLearning

**An EXECUTIVE SUMMARY of approximately 200 words is due on March 30<sup>th</sup> no later than 1:00 pm in eLearning.** Include your name and the title of your Policy Brief; double-spaced, 12 point font.

**Grade Distribution**

Assignments	60%
Participation	15%
Final Project	25% (20% paper; 5% presentation)
Total	100%

Excellent Work = A = 94 - 100; A- = 90-93%  
Good Work = B+ = 87-89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83%  
Average Work = C+ = 77-79; C = 74-76%  
Unacceptable Work = F = <74%

Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online or purchased at the [UT Dallas Bookstore](#).

**Course Access and Navigation**

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website.

Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information.

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**Class Recordings**

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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## Class Materials

The Instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

## Course Policies

### *Make-up exams*

Only in emergency situations with supporting documentation. Weekly assignments are not accepted after class discussion of the reading.

### *Extra Credit*

None

### *Late Work*

Generally, not accepted except in cases of emergency; must provide documentation.

### *Special Assignments*

none

### *Class Participation*

Weekly discussions. Students who miss more than 3 class should consider withdrawing from the course.

### *Classroom Citizenship*

## Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

*“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”*

## Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please go to [Academic Support Resources](#) webpage for these policies.

## UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <https://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> webpage for these policies.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WORK SUBMITTED IN OTHER CLASSES, MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED FOR CREDIT IN THIS CLASS. THIS INCLUDES STUDENTS WHO ARE REGISTERED FOR BOTH CRIM4322 AND CRIM6311. SUBMITTING THE SAME OR SIMILAR WORK FOR TWO CLASSES IS CHEATING. TURNITIN.COM IS USED IN IN THIS CLASS.**

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*