



## CRIM 6311: Crime and Public Policy

1<sup>st</sup> Eight Week Session – Online

### I. Professor Contact Information:

Dr. Sarah Maxwell, Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Education, EPPS. 972-883-6469

Students are strongly encouraged to use email as the primary method of communication. Your professor checks email several times per day and you can normally expect a response within 8 hours or sooner.

**Office Hours:** Students should feel free to contact me at any time by email. Appointments may be arranged at times available to both student and professor for those requiring an in person visit. I truly enjoy meeting with students, so please stop by to ask questions, clarify assignments, or just say “hello.”

**Technical Support:** If you experience difficulties with your UTD account you may send an email to [assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:assist@utdallas.edu) or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

### II. Course Description:

Crime and Justice Policy is an introduction to the efforts to control crime through public policy. Crime and Justice Policy explores the foundations of the policy-making process at the federal, state, and local levels. The course also considers broad theoretical applications pertaining to public opinion, national culture, and comparative analyses among western democracies and their differing approaches to crime. Readings consist of two texts, which will lay the foundation for further academic study, including articles from peer-reviewed journals, government agencies, foundations, and think-tanks.

### III. Textbooks

- Walker, Samuel. (2008). Sense and Nonsense about Crime, Drugs, and Communities: A Policy Guide, 7th Edition. *(purchase ebook or rental)*

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/en/US/storefront/US?cmd=catProductDetail&productID=5782419421023337452105204781888263545>

A hard copy of this text can also be purchased at Off Campus Books or the UTD Bookstore or on various online bookstores. This book is also available on Kindle.

- Anderson, James. (2010). Public Policy Making (7<sup>th</sup> Edition). Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN-10: 0618974725 ISBN-13: 9780618974726

### IV. Course Objectives

- Apply categories of policy making to the crime problem and crime control.
- Describe how policy makers and nongovernmental actors help shape crime legislation and policy making.
- Apply the policy process to crime; why and how do crime concerns become public problems?
- Why do some crime problems never make it onto the institutional agenda? How are crime policies implemented and at what levels?
- Discuss the policy adoption and implementation processes; how laws about crime are made, and accordingly, how national crime legislation is implemented at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Effectively analyze how and when larger social forces such as public opinion, national culture, and major historical events contribute to national policy making.
- Discuss specific pieces of legislation, analyzing how crime legislation creates change, including unintended consequences for various populations and the American public in general.
- Understand the role of research and criminological theories in public policy formation.

## V. Grades

25% of total grade	75% of total grade
<p><b>FINAL Exam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers all of Anderson text. Open book. Student must grasp major concepts and processes by which public policy is made. These concepts will be applied sequentially to a crime issue from the Walker text.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DUE 5:00 pm Every Wednesday</b></p> <p><b><u>Please see Assignment posted on Elearning</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>BEST PRACTICE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND TABLE FROM WALKER TEXT and Journal Articles</b> (See example on Elearning and follow instructions). Four <u>external references per answer/or inserted within the Table</u>. External references must include two journal articles from peer-reviewed journals. The remaining references may come from government agencies or NGOS (non-governmental organizations such as the National Governors' Association Center for Best Practices), or think tanks (i.e. Brookings, RAND, Urban Institute).</li> </ul>

**STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO CHECK THEIR ELEARNING EMAIL THREE TIMES A WEEK. Failure to do so may result in a grade reduction. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade every 24 hours.**

**Incomplete Grade Policy:** As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed and approved by the professor at the semester's end and only if 70% of the coursework has been completed.

**Discussions:** discussions are spaces where students can voice personal opinion. All other written assignments are based on academic arguments, research, or statistics. **All comments posted by students must be in formal language with no intolerant, rude, abusive, or obscene language.** Violations of this policy will be referred for disciplinary action.

## VI. COURSE CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

As part of the weekly assignments and final project, students will be incorporating articles from the seminal research journals in the crime, criminological, and criminal justice literature. These are additional readings that the student will research independently to inform the discussion.

WEEK	READING	WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS Email to <a href="mailto:sarah.maxwell@utdallas.edu">sarah.maxwell@utdallas.edu</a> by 5:00 pm
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anderson, J.E. (2010) <i>Public Policymaking</i>, Chapters 1-2</li> </ul> <p>Understand the public policy stages process and theories of public policies; Apply frameworks of criminological theories to the policy making process;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read in preparation for Final Exam</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Walker) Crime and Policy: A Complex Problem</li> <li>(Walker) Models of Criminal Justice</li> <li>Worrall, J. (1999). Focusing Event Characteristics and Issue Accompaniment: The Case of Domestic Terrorism. <i>Criminal Justice Policy Review</i> v. 10. No3/99. Pp. 319-341.</li> <li>(Anderson) Problems, Agendas, and Formulations in Anderson, J. (2010) <i>Public Policy Making</i> Chapter 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read all in preparation for Best Practices and Final Exam</li> </ul>

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (Walker) The Going Rate</li> <li>▪ (Walker) The Prediction Problem</li> <li>▪ (Anderson) Problems, Agendas, and Formulations in Anderson, J. (2010) Public Policy Making Chapter 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best Practices due Wednesday, <b>September 7<sup>th</sup></b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preventing Wrongful Convictions</li> <li>▪ Preventing Recidivism among those committing their fair share of the crimes – link section back to Cohort Studies in your executive summary section.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (Walker) Unleash the Cops!</li> <li>▪ (Walker) Deter the Criminals.</li> <li>▪ (Anderson) Problems, Agendas, and Formulations in Anderson, J. (2010) Public Policy Making Chapters 5-7</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best Practices due Wednesday, <b>September 14<sup>th</sup></b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (Walker) Best Practices in Policing; be sure to cover SARA Model as part of this assignment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (Walker) Lock ‘Em Up</li> <li>▪ (Walker) Close the Loopholes</li> <li>▪ Boychuk, Katherine (1993) Are Stalking Laws Vague or Overbroad? Northwestern University Law Review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best Practices due Wednesday, <b>September 21<sup>st</sup></b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (Walker) Best Practices associated with Deterrence Theory</li> <li>▪ Best Practices Preventing or Deterring Stalkers – use both Walker and Boychuck, along with student-selected articles</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (Walker) Protect Crime Victims (Read only)</li> <li>▪ (Walker) Control Gun Crimes (Read Only)</li> <li>▪ (Walker) Treat ‘Em!</li> <li>▪ (Walker) Gain Compliance with the Law</li> <li>▪ Maxwell, C., Garner, J &amp; Fagan, J. (2002). The Preventative Effects of Arrest on Intimate Partner Violence: Research, Policy and Theory. 2(1) pp. 51-80.</li> <li>▪ Jackson, S., Forde, D. Maxwell, C. Taylor, B, Feder, L., &amp; Davis, R. (June 2003). Batterer Intervention Programs: Where do we go from here? NIJ Special Report. pp. 1-35.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best Practices due Wednesday, <b>September 28<sup>th</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best Practices in Rehabilitation of Offenders (incorporate Maxwell and Jackson et. al articles into summary in addition to student-selected articles)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (Walker) Sense and Nonsense about Drugs</li> <li>▪ (Walker) Putting it All Together</li> </ul>	Final Exam sent to students on Wednesday, October 5 <sup>th</sup> (Hint: follow the War on Drugs using each stage of the policy process, from identification of the problems...to adoption and implementation, and ultimately, the unintended consequences of the social policy).
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Final Exam Week</li> </ul>	<b>FINAL EXAM DUE FRIDAY. OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 5:00 pm</b>

### VIII. UT Dallas Policies

<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>