

Southeast Missouri State University
Course Number: CJ538
Title of Course: Crime and Criminal Justice Public Policy
Department of Criminal Justice

- I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours: Research overview and examination of major issues in criminal justice and the policy-making process at Federal and State level (3).
- II. Prerequisites: introductory course in criminal justice or permission of instructor.
- III. Purposes and objectives of the course:
 - A. To develop and gain understanding of the policy procedures and processes with the criminal justice system, with emphasis on influence, regulatory control, pressure groups and identification of key players in agenda building for the police, prosecution, courts, corrections and juvenile justice subsystems.
 - B. To integrate these findings and research results into a multidisciplinary approach for building policy agendas and understanding the rule-making process.
 - C. To apply the findings of research in order to make informed decisions concerning crime control, punishment and violence prevention as a criminal justice administrator.
- IV. Expectations of students:
 - A. Read assigned material and participate in lecture-discussion and small groups.
 - B. Participate in group project and presentation.
 - C. Prepare an individual policy position paper on some current crime control, punishment, or violence issue, with explanation of political, media and citizen input.
- V. Course outline

Week	Hours	Topics and Examination Schedule
1	3	Introduction; Overview; Requirements
2	3	Federalism and policy making: who controls--federal or state
3	3	Rule-making vs. regulator functions: when stem boats blew up (birth of the ICC); Max Weber
4	3	The policy setting: prison bed space
5	3	Key players: Floyd Hunter's study of elites and Robert Dahl on pluralism--examination of the role of sheriff, governor and FBI
6	3	Media influence: bias or objective reporting?

7	3	Collaboration and agenda building: grass roots to special interest pressure agendas
8	3	Decision-making: rational vs. political, formal vs. informal (MADD); examination of the death penalty
9	3	Process of policy evaluation: formative vs. summative. Problems with accountability
10	3	Midterm
11	3	Gun control: From Brady to right to carry concealed weapons
12	3	War on drugs: Success or failure?
13	3	Group presentations: gun control, war on drugs, violence in the school, three strikes, and prison bed space
14	3	Juvenile justice system: adults or children?
15	3	Policy analysis today: presentation of individual policy papers
16	3	Final Examination
Total 45 Hours		

VI. Textbooks:

- A. Wilson, J.Q. *Crime and Public Policy*, San Francisco, CA: ICS Press.
- B. Other readings to be selected.

VII. Basis for student evaluation: Midterm and final examination, each counting 25% of the grade. Individual student policy paper will count for 35% of the grade. Group presentation will count for 15% of the grade. Graduate credit will be differentiated on the basis of length and detail of paper.