CRIM1000 Introduction to College Seminar
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Fall 2015
Wednesdays 1:35-2:40, 200 Churchill Hall

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Course description:
The Introduction to College Seminar is designed to introduce first-year majors and new transfer students in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) to the faculty and the discipline, in general. The seminar also helps familiarize SCCJ students with various support services at Northeastern University, providing skills to enhance academic success. Throughout the course of the seminar, you will be exposed to several members of the faculty to learn about cutting edge research in the field and opportunities to engage with faculty in ongoing research. Additionally, you will meet criminal justice professionals working throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to gain a better understanding of the field of criminal justice. The seminar topics are selected to expose you to a variety of critical issues facing society and criminal justice institutions, as well as to assist you in your academic and professional career.

Course requirements:
Attendance and participation (50% of final grade): Class attendance is mandatory. After one absence, you will lose one letter grade for each additional absence (unless excused for unavoidable and documented reasons). You are expected to be engaged in class sessions, actively listening to speakers and asking questions. You will be exposed to a variety of viewpoints, values and opinions that may differ from your own. You are an important part of
creating an atmosphere that makes such open exchange possible, and you should feel comfortable enough to participate actively and express your point of view.

Current event assignments (20% of final grade): Two times during the semester you will be asked to identify a news story about a criminal justice issue/event that relates to the topics discussed by the guest speakers who have visited the course. You will be asked to write a 1-2 page reflection on that event and how the research and ideas presented by the faculty confirmed, changed or challenged your thinking about the event or coverage of the event.

Final reflection paper (20% of final grade): You are required to complete a 4-5 page reflection paper at the end of the course that tackles an issue of significance to the field of criminal justice. In this paper you should identify one of the most important questions that researchers need to address about crime and/or justice. Based on what you have learned from the speakers and visits to criminal justice institutions, how might criminal justice research inform policymaking about this question? What do you intend to do during your time at Northeastern to understand and respond to this question? The paper should submitted through Turnitin on the class Blackboard page, and is due by noon time on Monday, December 14th.

In class assignments (10% of final grade): Throughout the semester there will be a few in-class assignments designed to enhance the learning experience. Details will be given during class.

Course Schedule:

September 9  Introductions and overview of course requirements. Preview course syllabus and cover important information for the upcoming semester (goals exercise).

September 16  Race and crime. Associate Dean Jack McDevitt and Professor Kevin Drakalich will discuss the challenges of addressing racial bias in policing and the challenges of addressing racial disparities in criminal justice processes.

September 23  Students complete the SCCJ outcome assessment and hear from co-op coordinator Jean Egan about what to expect in preparing for co-op at NU.

September 30  Communities and crime. Professors Brandon Welsh and Greg Zimmerman will discuss how crime varies across communities and strategies for reducing crime.

October 7  Global criminology. Professor Nikos Passas will discuss transnational crime and the study of crime across the globe. Additionally, we will discuss opportunities for students to experience the world while studying criminal justice through study abroad and dialogues of civilization programs at Northeastern.
**First current event assignment due**

October 14  Trip to Boston Police Department (BPD) and Boston Regional Information Center (BRIC)

October 21  Punishment. Professors Natasha Frost and Donna Bishop will discuss punishment of adults and of juveniles in an age of mass incarceration.

October 28  Holding offenders accountable. Professor Amy Farrell will present research on the challenges of prosecuting human trafficking offenders. She will be joined by a representative from the MA Attorney General’s Office to talk about state criminal prosecution.

Kim Fralic will also join the first half of the class to discuss advising for SCCJ students.

November 4  Violence and victimization. Professors James Alan Fox and Carlos Cuevas will discuss research on multiple homicide and sexual victimization.

November 11  Veterans Day Observed – No class

November 18  Roxanne Palmentier, NU Librarian for Criminal Justice majors will discuss the library’s mission to provide students with ample access to information—documents and data. During this session you will learn how to choose the right database for your research and access electronic resources to research criminal justice topics.

**Second current event assignment due**

November 25  Thanksgiving Holiday Break – No class

December 2  Former Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice and Distinguished Professor Rodrick Ireland and Daniel Urman will discuss courts, the third branch of government.

December 9  Last day of class – reflection and wrap up

**Final reflection paper due Monday December 14th.**