CRIM1000 Introduction to College Seminar
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Fall 2016
Wednesdays 11:45-12:50, 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. At the end of each class session you will be asked to write a brief response describing the most salient points that you took away from the class presentations. Throughout the course, these reflections should help you think about where
your interests lie and what types of research and opportunities you will want to pursue at Northeastern. 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. 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):** At the end of the course you will complete a 2-3 page reflection paper that identifies an important issue facing the field of criminal justice and describes how criminal justice research can inform policymaking about that issue. The paper should be submitted through Turnitin on the class Blackboard page, and is due by noontime on Friday, December 9th.

**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 7**
- Introductions and overview of course requirements. Preview course syllabus and cover important information for the upcoming semester. Introduction of peer mentors.

**September 14**
- Race and crime. Associate Dean Jack McDevitt and Professor Kevin Drakulich will discuss the challenges of addressing racial bias in policing and the challenges of addressing racial disparities in criminal justice processes.

**September 21**
- 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 28**
- Presentation from SCCJ peer mentors and information about utilizing the NU writing center and other student support services.

**October 5**
- Global criminology. Professor Ekaterina Botchkovar will discuss the study of crime across the globe. Additionally, we will have a presentation from the study abroad ambassadors to 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 12 SCCJ Director Antony Braga will discuss his research on policing and crime prevention challenges and strategies.

October 19 Trip to the Boston Police Department (BPD) and Boston Regional Information Center (BRIC)

October 26 Holding offenders accountable. Professor Amy Farrell will present research on the challenges of prosecuting human trafficking offenders.

The academic advisor from CSSH will also join the second half of the class to discuss advising for SCCJ students.

November 2 Punishment. Professors Natasha Frost will discuss punishment of adults and of juveniles in an age of mass incarceration.

Peer mentors will join the second half of the class to check in with students about course issues and mentoring opportunities.

November 9 Violence and victimization. Professors James Alan Fox and Carlos Cuevas will discuss research on multiple homicide and sexual victimization.

November 16 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 23 Thanksgiving Holiday Break – No class

November 30 Former Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice and Distinguished Professor Rodrick Ireland will discuss courts, the third branch of government.

December 7 Last day of class – reflection and wrap up

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