

Administration of Justice 115
Fall Semester 2001

Victimless Crimes
Course Syllabus

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. and
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Class Meeting Times: Tuesday, Thursday 10:30 - 11:45 p.m.
MacQuarrie Hall 520

This course examines the concept of Avictimless crimes@ or Acrimes without victims,@ commonly also called Avice crimes.@ We will examine three such crimes/behaviors in depth: drug use and abuse, prostitution, and gambling. This category of crimes is particularly useful for a consideration of the role of law in society, because the existence of controversy over their continued status as crimes suggests there might be useful non-criminal or non-legal approaches to the same behaviors. The course asks you to consider the following questions throughout the semester: are there any crimes that are truly victimless? If so, why are these behaviors criminalized? If not, who are the victims: the individual who commits the crime, his/her family, loved ones and neighbors, or society at large? What other approaches might we take to social problems like drug abuse, prostitution and gambling? Can the government legislate morality in the absence of popular consensus? What are the unintended consequences and costs of criminalizing these behaviors, and do they outweigh the benefits? What approaches do other societies take to handle these problems, and how successful are they?

Required Texts:

1. James A. Inciardi & Karen McElrath, eds., *The American Drug Scene: An Anthology*, Third Edition (Los Angeles: Roxbury, 2001) - abbreviated AADS@ below. Please be sure you get the most recent (third) edition.
2. Neil McKeganey & Marina Barnard, *Sex Work on the Streets: Prostitutes and Their Clients* (Buckingham, England: Open University Press, 1996) - abbreviated ASWS@ below.
3. Course reader - will be available at Maple Press, near campus. You are advised to check with the professor or call Maple Press to find out if the reader is available before you go there.

Class Participation, Requirements, and Grading:

You are responsible for keeping up with the assigned reading and being prepared to discuss it in class. (Class participation helps your learning and your grade.)

During class, please make sure your cell phones and pagers are silent.

Exams will cover both lectures and reading assignments. Some material discussed in class will not be in the readings; similarly, not everything discussed in the readings will be covered in class.

Thus it is very important that you both keep up with the reading and attend class regularly. Students will be excused from class for legitimate medical reasons and for university-related engagements (e.g., athletics). Whenever possible, if you must miss class please inform the instructor ahead of time.

Your grade will be based on 3 exams, 3 short (2 page) writing assignments, and class participation. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams: 600 points

Midterm 1: 200 points

Midterm 2: 200 points

Final: 200 points

Writing Assignments: 50 points each, total of 150 points

Class Participation: 50 points
800 points

Your scores for each test and assignment will be added together, and your total points at the end of the semester will determine your grade. Final grades will be curved (you are measured against the performance of the rest of the class).

All exams are closed-book, closed-note. Exams will include short-answer questions and one essay question. The exam format will be reviewed before each test. The essay questions on the final exam will be cumulative.

The writing assignments will be reflection pieces based on the readings and discussions, and designed to help you analyze the course material and/or apply it to real life. You may be asked to find and analyze a newspaper or magazine article or review a relevant website. No other research will be required. However, you will need to integrate readings and discussions into your assignments. Thus, you cannot wait until the night before the exam to do the reading.

You must take the final exam to pass the course. Students who do not take the final will receive an AF or an AI for the course, at the instructor's discretion, regardless of their class average prior to the final. In accordance with University policy, students caught cheating or plagiarizing

will also receive an AF@ grade for the course.

Late papers and missed exams:

Papers: papers will be marked down **5 points** for each **day** they are late (including weekends). Papers more than ten days late will not be accepted. When submitting late papers, be sure to have the AJ Department receptionist mark the date it was received; you may also fax or email your paper if it is late.

Exams: **only one** exam can be made up, and only if you have a good reason for missing the exam (e.g., serious illness with physician=s note). Make-up exams are longer and involve more writing than the regular exams. The make-up exam day is the last day of class, and it is your responsibility to notify the professor that you intend to take a make-up exam.

There will be **no exceptions** made to the late paper and missed exam policies.

Course Outline, Reading Assignments, and Exams

I. The Use and Abuse of Licit and Illicit Drugs

- Week 1. Tuesday August 28, Thursday August 30: Introduction to course; Selected History of American Drug Use
Read for class: ADS readings 4, 5, 9, 17
- Week 2. Tuesday September 4, Thursday September 6: Drug Use and Addiction
Read for class: ADS readings 1-3, 6, 12-13, 21
- Week 3. Tuesday September 11, Thursday September 13: Users and Categories of Illegal Drugs
Read for class: ADS readings 11, 14-15, 19-20, 22, 24-25
- Week 4. Tuesday September 18, Thursday September 20: Drugs and Crime
Read for class: ADS readings 18, 23, 26-29
Writing Assignment 1 handed out
- Week 5. Tuesday September 25, Thursday September 27: Prevention and Treatment
Read for class: ADS readings 30-32;
Course reader - drug courts
- Week 6. Tuesday October 2, Thursday October 4: Reconsidering the War on Drugs
Read for class: ADS readings 7, 8, 10, 16, 33-36
Course reader - harm reduction
- Week 7. **Tuesday October 9: EXAM I.** Closed book. Covers readings and discussions for weeks 1-6. Bring a bluebook and a pen.

II. Prostitution

(Week 7 continued) Thursday October 11: Prostitution - Introduction

Read for class: SWS, Introduction and Chapter 1

Course reader - Introduction to Prostitution

Week 8. Tuesday October 16, Thursday October 18: Prostitutes and their Clients; Prostitutes=
Views of their Work

Read for class: SWS, Chapters 2, 4, 7

Course reader - Prostitutes= Views of their Work

Week 9. Tuesday October 23, Thursday October 25: Street Prostitution and drug use,
violence, and HIV/AIDS

Read for class: SWS, Chapters 3, 5, 6

Course reader - Prostitution & HIV/AIDS

Writing Assignment 2 handed out

Week 10. Tuesday October 30, Thursday November 1: Policy Responses to Prostitution

Read for class: SWS, Conclusion

Course reader - Policy Responses to Prostitution

Week 11. **Tuesday November 6: EXAM II.** Closed Book. Covers readings and discussions
for weeks 7-10. Bring a bluebook and a pen.

III. Gambling

Thursday November 8: Video.

No reading assignment.

Week 12. Tuesday November 13, Thursday November 15: Gambling - Introduction and History

Read for class: Course reader for week 12

Writing Assignment 3 handed out

Week 13. Tuesday November 20: Gambling Demographics: Who Gambles and Why

Read for class: Course reader for week 13

Week 14. Tuesday November 27, Thursday November 29: Social Problems relating to
Gambling: Addiction, Organized Crime

Read for class: Course reader for week 14

Week 15. Tuesday December 4, Thursday December 6: Managerial & Policy Responses to
Gambling Problems

Read for class: Course reader for week 15

Week 16. Tuesday December 11: Course Conclusion & Review for Final
Make-up exams given

FINAL EXAMINATION: Friday, December 14th, 9:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Bring pen, bluebooks.

Note: If you want to know your final grade before grades are sent out, please bring a self-addressed, stamped postcard or envelope to the final and I will mail your course grade when I finish grading the finals. To protect student privacy, grades cannot be given out by telephone or email.