Course Descriptions:

This graduate seminar will focus on four interrelated thematic topics: 1) we will introduce issues fundamental to comparative criminological research; 2) we will discuss the major components of criminology-law making, law breaking and reacting to the breaking of law in a cross-national context; 3) we will highlight the current and emerging national/transnational crime issues; and 4) we will compare and contrast convergent and divergent criminal justice policies adopted by different countries in the world.

Course Goals:

- To expand our knowledge base on criminological theories and their cross-national applications
- To gain better understanding of the U.S. criminal justice policy choices
- To compare and contrast domestic criminal justice policies adopted by different nations

Required Text:

Tonry, Michael (2006)


Recommended Text:

Muncie, John and Goldson, Barry (eds.) (2006)

Nelken, David (ed.) (1994)
Campbell, Tom (1981)
Neapolitan, Jerome L. (1997)

Course Requirements:

1. Research paper (30%): You will write a full-fledged paper on some aspect of the cross-national crime and crime control issues. The paper should be more than just a literature review. It should contain analytical section(s) where your original thoughts and writings are evident. Original quantitative data analysis is not required. However, you may receive assistance from me if you decide to use it in your paper.
   a. Format: double-spaced, paged, one-inch margin all around, font size 12, use standard citation style (e.g., APA, Chicago), about 20-25 pages.
   b. Choice of topic: you may choose any comparative crime and justice topic you are interested in. But I would like to know what you are planning to do before you move too far along. Your tentative topic and abstract are due on 10/5.
   c. Brief presentation: you are required to present the synopsis of your paper at the end of the semester.
2. Weekly presentation and summary of reading (15%): You will be assigned additional readings and asked to prepare a precise outline of your readings (no more than 2 single-spaced pages). I expect you to share your thoughts and lead discussions on the subject matters involved in your readings. The order of reading/presentation assignment will be drawn randomly at the beginning of the semester.
   a. Every student is required to read all of the weekly reading assignments included in the syllabus.
   b. Please make one copy of your outline for each classmate during the week of your presentation.
   c. Please bring to my attention if you have any special educational needs.
3. Mid-term Exam (20%): In-class essay style exam
4. Final Exam (30%): In-class essay style exam at the conclusion of the semester.
5. Class participation (5%): Your active participation is the key to the success of this class. Through participation, I expect you to show me that 1) you have read the assigned materials; and 2) you are able (and willing) to ask insightful questions pertaining to the issues involved.

Tentative Class Schedule

TOPIC 1: Comparative Criminological Research

9/14  Course Introduction
9/21  Why compare? What to compare? How to compare?


**TOPIC 2: Theories and Cross-national Applications**

9/28 Of Society and Man: Theories


10/5 Applications (tentative term paper topic and abstract due)


**10/12  Columbus Day (no class)**

10/19 **New Frontiers?**


**International Self-report Delinquency (ISRD) Study: An Introduction (Phil He)**

**TOPIC 3: A World of Crime**

10/26 **Crime and Justice**


**11/2  Youth Justice**


11/9 Mid-term Exam

**TOPIC 4: Criminal Justice Policy in Global Context**

11/16 Law and Social Control (I)


11/23 Law and Social Control (II)


11/30 Class presentations

12/7 Class presentations

12/14 Final Exam