

CRJ 480 ON: Senior Seminar (Online)

Instructor - Brandon Zuidema

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Course Dates: October 12 – December 5

Course Times: Online

Location: Moodle

Course Description

As a student in this course, you will either have completed or be concurrently enrolled in the traditional internship experience. Here, you will integrate the expansive criminal justice/political science knowledge that you have acquired through academic study with the real-world situations of your internship experience. The content of this course focuses on current and significant issues within the field of Criminal Justice and Political Science, while the goal of this course aims to prepare you for the transition from the university to a career, to graduate or a professional school, or to the Armed Forces.

Course Objectives

- Discuss the historical evolution of drug policy within the United States
- Examine past and current issues related to drugs and drug policy within the United States; connect these issues to a broader worldwide context
- Analyze contemporary drug policy and anticipate the future of drug policy within the United States
- Demonstrate and explain learning through written submissions
- Produce an original written blog addressing contemporary criminal justice issues

Required Text and Materials

1. Class Text: Belenko, Steven and Cassia Spohn. Drugs, Crime, and Justice. Los Angeles: Sage Publications. 2015. ISBN 978-1-4522-7708-0.
2. Article – Dose of Reality; The Effect of State Marijuana Legalizations. Dills, Goffard, and Miron. The Cato Institute, September 2016, Number 799. Available in Moodle as a PDF document.
3. Article – Ending the War on Drugs. Pearl & Perez. Center for American Progress, June 2018. Available in Moodle as a PDF document.
4. Article – Reducing Fatal Opioid Overdose: Prevention, Treatment, and Harm Reduction Strategies. Hawk, Vaca, and D’Onofrio. Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine; volume 88 (2015), pp.235-245. Available in Moodle as a PDF document.
5. Article - Evidence-based Drug Crime Policy: Moving Beyond the Moral/Medical Dichotomy to a Multi-level Model of Addiction. Koppel. Journal of Civil & Legal Sciences; volume 5:2 (2016).
6. Video – Oxyana.
Available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5xAu1csU_c
7. Video – The House I Live In.
Available at https://tubitv.com/movies/372320/the_house_i_live_in

Email / Communication Policy

This online classroom is viewed as an open forum of reason and discourse. Thus, the environment to be established is one of free discussion and seminar-level conversation. All opinions are to be heard and evaluated with respect and consideration.

Your William Peace email is the primary means by which we will communicate for our class. You are strongly encouraged to check your email on a daily basis, so you do not miss important and/or timely information from me or the University.

Online Course Guidelines

All online courses in the School of Professional Studies are fully online and require the use of Moodle. Weekly readings, activities, and assignments will be listed in Moodle. You should expect to spend on average 10-15 hours per week on an individual 3-credit course. This includes all the readings, posts, and assignments as well as being actively engaged in the discussions on the message boards. You should plan to log into the course daily. If you have any problems accessing Moodle please contact Dr. Lori McClaren, Director of Online Learning at 919-508-2367 or lmccclaren@peace.edu.

Late Assignments

Students are required to submit all work no later than 11:55 pm on Sunday night in the week in which it is assigned. Late assignments will only be accepted according to the following guidelines:

- Up to 24 hours late, a 10 percent grade deduction will be applied.
- Up to seven days late, a 20 percent grade deduction will be applied.
- Assignments will **not** be accepted more than one week late and will receive a grade of zero.
- Exception: All week seven assignments must be submitted no later than the final day of class.

Academic Integrity

William Peace University seeks to develop both the intellect and character of its students. All members of the University are expected to promote a culture of academic integrity, and all students are expected to inform themselves of the University's policies and procedures related to the Honor Code. All forms of academic misconduct are violations of the University's Honor Code. These include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in academic work or in working with others on academic requirements (tests, assignments, etc.)
- Plagiarism: Representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic work, whether intentional or not
- Falsification: Falsifying or inventing any information or citation in academic work
- Facilitating academic dishonesty: Helping or attempting to help another student to commit an act of academic dishonesty
- Lying: Misrepresenting information that is relevant to the classroom or academic performance

If a faculty member suspects academic misconduct has taken place, s/he will complete an Honor Code Violation Report and contact the student to discuss. A student may accept or decline to accept responsibility. If a student accepts responsibility, s/he will be subject to the penalty determined by the faculty member. If a student declines to admit responsibility, the case will be turned over the Honor Board for adjudication. A complete summary of the Honor Code and Honor Board policy can be found in the *Academic Catalog*.

Tutorial Services

The Office of Tutorial Services is located on the 2nd floor of Finch Library, open Monday-Thursday from 9am-7pm, and Friday 9am-4pm. Tutoring is free of charge, and students are encouraged to make individual appointments in the sign-up binder located on the bookshelf next to the elevator. Tutoring is offered in most all subjects, including anthropology, biology, business, chemistry, criminal justice, history, math, political science, psychology, simulation and game design, and writing. Free workshops are also offered each semester, as well as free resources on studying, citation, grammar, and other academic topics. For more information, contact Margaret Herder-Hill, Coordinator of Tutorial Services at (919) 508-2080 or maherder-hill@peace.edu.

Disability or Learning Services

Disability Services are available to all WPU students who require reasonable accommodations due to any cognitive, physical, or psychological disability, in order to provide equal access to the educational environment. Students will need to be certified with the Disability Services Office and provide appropriate documentation to receive an Academic Accommodation Plan. For more information or to become certified, please contact a counselor in the Disability Services Office, which is located on the 1st Floor of Joyner House. You may also reach Disability Services by sending an email to Disability@peace.edu.

Attendance

William Peace University students are expected to attend all classes and laboratories for which they are registered, believing that regular class attendance and participation are an essential part of a student's educational program. However, the University's policy is that students may not miss more one (1) class in a 7-week session or two (2) classes in a 15-week session or the student is subject to course failure. It is the responsibility of the student to meet the attendance policy. For the purposes of our online class, failure to submit work in any given week constitutes a missed class; missing more than one week of class may result in course failure.

Class Participation

Students are expected to have read all course materials and to make use of those course materials in their written submissions. As we do not "meet" online, there is no required time for participation in our class.

Incompletes

An Incomplete is appropriate for a student that has been making steady, successful progress in a course and has an unexpected, verifiable mitigating circumstance at the end of the semester which precludes them from completing the last assignment or exam. Poor time management is not an appropriate reason to request an Incomplete. All incomplete grade requests must be approved first by the Instructor, and then by the Director of Online Programs. If the Incomplete is approved the student will have up to six additional weeks to complete the work, as determined by the Instructor. If the student does not complete the final work, the Instructor will assign the appropriate letter grade for work completed or the grade will revert to an "F."

Assignments and Grading

Assignments will normally be graded no later than five (5) days after submission. Students are encouraged to review their graded assignments, with particular attention given to the feedback provided; doing so will allow you to avoid repetitive mistakes in future assignments and will ensure you are maximizing your learning and your grade potential for our class.

Exam Proctoring

William Peace University partnered with Proctortrack to uphold academic integrity through the delivery of online assessments, including tests and quizzes, during the pandemic. Proctortrack supports student identity verification while also monitoring what materials and resources are or are not approved for use during the exam. All online courses at William Peace University require one (1) proctored exam or activity during the final week of the course. All proctored exams will be completed through Proctortrack.

Text Support

Because we meet in the online environment, the primary means by which I can evaluate your learning from the course materials is through your ability to apply what you have learned in your written submissions. Your written submissions must include support from the course text (Belenko & Spohn) using internal citation in the format (Lasley & Guskos, 2014, p.##). You can also make use of other academic sources (if from the Internet, should have a ".edu" web address) if you choose to. You should not make use of Wikipedia (or other similar "open source" websites, lawyer websites, or websites that sell you papers or information).

Assignments

The following types of assignments will be used in our class this session:

1. **Chapter Discussion Questions** You will respond to some of the questions posted for most chapters in the text as a means of demonstrating your comprehension of the course materials. Each question response should be between 150 and 300 words and should include academic reference and support. Each weekly submission is worth 15 points (seven assignments for 105 points total).
2. **Blog Posts:** Each student will create five (5) blog posts addressing contemporary criminal justice issues within the United States with some tie to drugs/crime/justice. Blog posts will be 400-500 words in length and will be worth 25 points each; the blog posts are worth a combined total of 125 points.
3. **Small Writing Assignments (Article or Video Review):** Consider these writing assignments as "senior-level discussion posts." They are to consist of reflection and analysis but will be written in essay format rather than as answers to prompted questions. Each assignment should range between two-three pages and will address either one of the three Schlosser articles or one of the two videos selected for our class. Each small writing assignment is worth 30 points (five assignments for 150 points total).
4. **Midterm Exam:** This exam will cover both lecture content and assigned readings (Belenko and Spohn and Schlosser). This essay style exam is worth 70 points.
5. **Final Exam:** This exam will cover both lecture content and assigned readings (Belenko and Spohn and Schlosser). This essay style exam is worth 75 points. This is a proctored exam completed through Proctortrack online.

Assignments	Percentage of Total Grade
Chapter Discussion Questions (7 total submissions – 1 each week)	20%
Blog Posts (5 total submissions)	24%
Small Writing Assignments (5 total submissions)	29%
Exams	Percentage of Total Grade
Midterm	13%
Final	14%

A total of **525** points are possible. Final grades are assigned according to the following:

A:	90-100%	473 – 525 points	(Excellent)
B:	89-80%	420 – 472 points	(Good)
C:	79-70%	368 – 419 points	(Average)
D:	69-60%	315 – 367 points	(Passing)
F:	Below 60%	Less than 315 points	(Failing)

Course Schedule Outline:

Week One:

October 12 - 18

- Review the Course Syllabus
- Read Chapters One and Two (Belenko and Spohn)
- Answer chapter two discussion questions #1, 2, and 3 (on page 43 of the text)
- Review the *Oxyana* video and submit Writing Assignment #1
- Submit Blog Post One

Week Two:

October 19 - 25

- Read Chapter Three (Belenko and Spohn)
- Answer chapter three discussion questions #3, 5, and 6 (on page 57 of the text)
- Review *Evidence-based Drug Crime Policy: Moving Beyond the Moral/Medical Dichotomy to a Multi-level Model of Addiction* (Koppel) and submit Writing Assignment #2
- Submit Blog Post Two

Week Three:

October 26 – November 1

- Read Chapter Four (Belenko and Spohn)
- Answer chapter four discussion questions #1, 2, and 4 (on page 88 of the text)
- Review *The House I Live In* video and submit Writing Assignment #3
- Submit Blog Post Three

Week Four:

November 2 - 8

- Read Chapter Five (Belenko and Spohn)
- Read *Reducing Fatal Opioid Overdose: Prevention, Treatment, and Harm Reduction Strategies* (Hawk, Vaca & D'Onofrio)
- Answer chapter five discussion questions #4, 6, and 9 (on page 115 of the text)

- Complete the Mid-Term Exam

Week Five:

November 9 - 15

- Read Chapters Six and Seven (Belenko and Spohn)
- Answer chapter six discussion questions #1 and 5 (on page 149 of the text)
- Answer chapter seven discussion question #1 (on page 178 of the text)
- Review *Ending the War on Drugs* (Pearl & Perez) and Submit Writing Assignment #4
- Submit Blog Post Four

Week Six:

November 16 - 22

- Read Chapters Eight and Nine (Belenko and Spohn)
- Answer chapter eight discussion question #5 (on page 213 of the text)
- Answer chapter nine discussion questions #6 and 10 (on page 247 of the text)
- Review *Dose of Reality; The Effect of State Marijuana Legalizations* (Dills, Goffard & Miron) and Submit Writing Assignment #5
- Submit Blog Post Five

Note – we are on Thanksgiving break the week of November 23

Week Seven:

November 30 – December 5 (Please note – week seven ends on Saturday rather than Sunday)

- Read Chapter Ten (Belenko and Spohn)
- Answer chapter ten discussion questions #1, 2, and 8 (on page 282 of the text)
- Complete the Final Exam (Proctored exam through Proctortrack online)

Due to potential extraneous issues, Professor Zuidema holds the right to alter any assignment or exam (or timing thereof) within this Senior Seminar class.