
The Crime-Prison Disconnect

How have CJ policies and practices in the US depleted communities, increased the likelihood of more contact with the system, and failed to address the causes of crime?

Crime Control

vs. Civil Liberties in a Democracy

How do efforts to respond to crime potentially conflict with concerns about civil liberties? What factors shape the nature of this tension? What is at stake in balancing this tension in a democracy?

Discretion:

Justice as Living, Human, and Flawed

How much individual decisionmaking power do justice officials have, how do they use it, and how does discretion shape patterns of justice and injustice?

The Open System

How do larger forces in society shape how the criminal justice system operates? What is the role of race, class, gender, politics, and the media in criminal justice?

Criminal Justice as Social Justice

How is "criminal" justice bound up with the success and failure of broader social institutions: economy, education, religion, family, law, etc.? What more equitable forms of justice might we imagine?



SOCI 451: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Summer Mini Term 2015

MTWRF

9-12am

HBB 124

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*True peace is not merely
the absence of tension:
it is the presence of justice.*

~Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*To find our way out of this
maze, we will have to look
beyond alternative
punishments, and even
beyond alternatives to
punishment. We will have
to look to alternative ways
of viewing both problem
and solution.*

~Howard Zehr