

# CJ 4310: Special Problems in the Criminal Justice System

Prof. Seth Watts

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## Course Description

This class will broadly be centered around crime control strategies. The primary focus will be on how the Criminal Justice System attempts to control criminal activity. We will also cover how the community, environment, labor market, and technology can be utilized to control crime.

## Course Objectives

1. You'll learn this
2. And also that
3. Perhaps some of this too.

## Required Textbook

Mays, G. L., & Ruddell, R. (2019). Making sense of criminal justice: Policies and practices. Oxford University Press. - No cost, PDF available.

## Assignments and Evaluation

Summary of Assignments

Grading

Course Policies

Technical Support

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	Aug 25-31	Introduction & Overview	Syllabus	Discussion Board 1
2	Sep 1-7	The Criminal Justice System	Textbook: Ch. 2 & 3	Discussion Board 2
3	Sep 8-14	Police I: Crime Control Agents	NA	Discussion Board 3
4	Sep 15-21	Police II: Hot Spots & Problem Oriented Policing	Braga et al. (2019), Hinkle et al. (2020); Reducing Crime Podcast Ep. #66 (David Weisburd)	Discussion Board 4
5	Sep 22-28	Police III: Focused Deterrence	Braga et al. (2018); Reducing Crime Podcast Ep. #18 (Thomas Abt)	Discussion Board 5; Paper Topic due
6	Sep 29-Oct 5	Courts, Prosecutors, & Sentencing	Textbook: Ch. 7	Discussion Board 6
7	Oct 6-12	Corrections: Prisons & Community Supervision	Textbook: Ch. 11, 12, & 13	Discussion Board 7
8	Oct 13-19	Midterm	NA	Midterm Exam
9	Oct 20-26	Community-based I: CPTED	Welsh & Farrington (2008); Garvin, Cannuscio, & Branas (2013)	Discussion Board 8; Paper Outline due
10	Oct 27-Nov 2	Community-based II: Public Health Approach	Butts et al. (2015) Cure Violence	Discussion Board 9
11	Nov 3-9	Technology & Surveillance	Textbook: Ch. 15; Connealy et al. (2024), Piza et al. (2024)	Discussion Board 10
12	Nov 10-16	Employment and Crime	Heller (2014) Summer jobs, Apel & Horney (2017)	Discussion Board 11
13	Nov 17-23	Evaluating What Works I	Sherman et al. (1998)	Discussion Board 12
14	Nov 24-Dec 1	Evaluating What Works II	TBD	Discussion Board 13; Final Paper due
15	Dec 2-9	Final	NA	Final Exam