

CJ 771- SEMINAR IN SURVEY RESEARCH AND THE PENALTY OF DEATH

SYLLABUS SSII, 2008

Professor: Dennis R. Longmire, Ph.D.
Office: C 107 CJ Center
Office Hours: By arrangement (availability open to meet student's needs)
Classroom: CJC – A181
Phone: 936.294.1651 (voice mail available)
e-mail: longmire@shsu.edu
web-page: http://www.shsu.edu/~icc_drl

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will focus on the death penalty and survey research at the same time. It will include a:

- broad overview of survey research methodology, meta-analysis, and the "death penalty scholarship";
- specific focus on the scholarship examining "public opinion and the death penalty";
- critical examination of that body of scholarship from a methodological perspective; and
- the identification of what is needed for the "next generation of scholarship" in this area.

One of the requirements for the class will involve a collective project requiring all enrolled students to work together to develop the foundation for a paper that will involve a formal meta-analysis of research examining attitudes about the death penalty and/or a research proposal that could be used to pursue funding, through the College of Criminal Justice's Survey Research Program, to implement a project that could address some of the "next generation" needs.

REQUIRED READINGS-

Fowler, Floyd J. (2001). *Survey Research Methods, 3rd. edition.*
Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Zimring, Franklin E. (2003). *Contradictions of American Capital
Punishment.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

In addition to the two books listed above, students will be required to locate and read scholarly journal articles focusing on survey research methodology, meta-analysis, and "public opinion" about the death penalty.

This class will serve as an "elective" in the doctoral curriculum.

SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLASS

See [GOALS AND OBJECTIVES](#)

CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

See [CLASS REQUIREMENTS](#)

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the College.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled *Student Guidelines*, distributed by Division of Student Services" (available in the Office of Student Life or online at <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/studlife.html#conduct>) for a description of possible sanctions in cases involving academic dishonesty.

Any student in this class who is involved in any form of dishonesty (including the presentation of someone else's work as your own, etc.) will receive an "F" for this class. Depending upon the severity of the violation, further action may be taken to have the student dismissed from the University.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

Students are welcome to record any material presented during class lectures and/or discussions. This recorded material may not be transcribed or copied for distribution without first securing my written permission. Laptop computers may be used in class for note-taking purposes and can be accessible during exam sessions. Students without their own computers must notify the Professor in advance if they require access the University's computers. Any electronic telecommunications devices (cell phones, personal pagers, etc.) should be set to "silent" mode or turned off prior to the beginning of each class session. If you require the use of one of these devices, please leave the classroom prior to initiating use.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS OR REQUESTS

Any student in this class may request special learning assistance by submitting a written statement describing your particular need. If it is necessary, you will be directed to the University's Counseling Center for additional assistance; however, most needs should be able to be accommodated directly through your professor. Please feel free to talk to you professor about any particular need you may have. Students with special needs may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (ext. 1720). The University Policy governing special learning needs is available at the attached link:

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/studlife.html#disabilities> .

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

Section 51.91 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized

For that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a semester session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignment and/or examinations are to be completed.

MAKE UP EXAM POLICY

Although there is no exam for this class, I am required to articulate a statement concerning class policy regarding this matter. If anyone wants to take an exam, contact me at any time and I will work with you on the development of a specialized examination procedure. Otherwise, you can "make-up" any of the points associated with the class requirements at your own convenience within the time parameters established by University policy and your particular program of study.

Final semester grades will be awarded based on the following scale:

Points	Grade
100 - 90	A
89 - 80	B
79 - 80	C
<79	F

ANNOTATED OUTLINE

See [ANNOTATED OUTLINE](#)