This course is designed as an overview of the problem of crime in a liberal regime. It is divided into five topics of investigation: crimes and victims; offenders and the causes of crime; determining guilt; assigning punishment; and the insights into the nature of a liberal society yielded by examining criminal justice.

We will spend considerable time thinking about the meaning of punishment. The important question is, what are we trying to do when we punish criminals? Are we trying to rehabilitate the offender, incapacitating him, deterring others from committing the same type of crime, or demanding retribution from the guilty party? This answer to this question is ultimately grounded in an understanding of the individual and his or her capacity for reasonable and responsible action.

I. How to find me:

Office Number: 234 Jepson Hall
Office Hours: MW 11:50 – 1:20pm and by appointment
Office Phone: 287-6365 (with voice mail)
Home Phone: 560-6816 (emergencies only please!)
E-mail: jsedgwic@richmond.edu

II. Texts: the following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore in Tyler Haynes Commons:

Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Prison.
Heather MacDonald, Are Cops Racist?
Herman Packer, The Limits of the Criminal Sanction.
Franklin Zimring, The Great American Crime Decline

All of these books are also on course reserve at the Boatwright Library; in addition, Herbert Morris, On Guilt and Innocence: Essays in Legal Philosophy and Moral Psychology is on reserve.

III. Course Requirements and Grading Criteria: the following assignments are required of each student enrolled in the course:

Grading in the course will be based on two brief, six-to-eight page papers (33%), class participation (33%), and a comprehensive final examination (33%). I will not formally take attendance, but you obviously will lose substantial points on your class participation grade if you choose to spend your time elsewhere or if you come to class without having read the assigned readings.

Course Outline and Schedule of Readings

I. Weeks 1 & 2 (January 9, 11, 16 &18): Crimes and Victims

Zimring, The Great American Crime Decline
Wilson & Petersilia, Crime and Public Policy, chapters 1, 2 and 19.

II. Weeks 3 & 4 (January 23, 25, 30 & February 1): Offenders and the Causes of Crime

Wilson & Petersilia, Crime and Public Policy, chapters 3-8, 10, 12 and 13.

III. Weeks 5 – 8: Determining Guilt

A. The Police (February 6, 8, 13 & 15)
Heather MacDonald, *Are Cops Racist?*

Packer, *The Limits of the Criminal Sanction*, pp. 149-204.


B. Prosecution and Adjudication (February 20, 22, 27 & 29)


Morris, *On Guilt and Innocence*.


IV. Weeks 9 & 10 (March 12, 14, 19 & 21): Punishment

Packer, *The Limits of the Criminal Sanction*, pp. 3-70.


V. Weeks 11-14 (March 26, & 28, April 2, 4, 9, 11, 16 & 18): Criminal Justice in a Liberal Regime


Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*.

Walter Berns, *For Capital Punishment*.

Abraham Lincoln, "Speech to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois."