

The Swedish Program - Fall 2019
Comparative Criminal Justice

Prof. Frank Anechiarico
Maynard-Knox Professor of Government and Law
Hamilton College

Introduction

The way that societies define crime is a critical element of national identity and an indicator of differing public norms and values. The stark contrast between the criminal justice systems in Sweden and the United States is one powerful way of examining the cultural and political differences between the two countries.

This course will focus on three broad areas: criminological theory, public safety and policing and corrections and incarceration. In each of these, we will consider both the Swedish and American perspectives.

Intended Learning Objectives

- Overview of theoretical *approaches to social control and criminogenic behavior*
- Substantive, *cross-national knowledge of policing and corrections institutions* and policy making
- Experience in *professional written and oral presentation* of analysis of criminal justice issues
- Understanding of the *intersection between crime control, socio-economic class, race, and institutional dynamics* in Sweden and the United States

Reading

Christoffer Carlsson and Jerry Sarnecki (2016) *An Introduction to Life-Course Criminology* (London: Sage Publications).

Andrew G. Ferguson (2017) *The Rise of Big Data Policing: Surveillance, Race and the Future of Law Enforcement*. (New York: NYU Press).

David Garland (2001) *The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

Doran Larson (2013) "Why Scandinavian Prisons are Superior," *The Atlantic*.

Peter L. Martens (1997) "Immigrants, Crime, and Criminal Justice in Sweden" *Crime and Justice*, 21.

Heather Schoenfeld (2018) *Building the Prison State: Race and the Politics of Mass Incarceration* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

Forrest Stuart (2016) *Down, Out and Under Arrest* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention

(2008) “Discrimination in the Criminal Justice Process in Sweden”

(2018) “Crime Prevention Work in Sweden”

(2017) “Hate Crime”

(2016) “Reducing Isolation in Detention”

Assignments

Debates (25% each): Twice during the term, each student, with a partner, will be assigned a side of an issue or question to debate in front of the class. The issue or question will be announced a week before the debate.

Each member of the two person teams should take up complementary, though differing, elements of the argument. Each debater has 5 minutes to deliver a persuasive argument, which must not be read from text. The Oral Communication Center is available for coaching and advice.

A five-page, carefully formatted and referenced, written version of each student’s argument is due one week after the debate

Final Paper (25%) By the fifth week of the term, each student should submit in writing a brief description of the topic of this paper, including a bibliography.

The paper should:

- identify one problem criminal justice problem common to Sweden and the U.S.
- explain the background and history of the problem
- critically examine the way the problem has been approached in both countries
- examine proposed reforms and solutions related to the problem
- make reference to relevant literature on the topic

The paper should have a clear point of view and be structured so as to persuade your reader. The first part of the paper should include the following: “This paper will argue that. . . . This argument will be supported by the following points: “

The paper is due at the last meeting of the course.

Final Exam (25%)

Course Schedule

Reading schedule by week:

- I. Carlsson and Sarnecki, chs. 1-3
- II. Carlsson and Sarnecki, chs. 4-6
- III. Carlsson and Sarnecki, chs. 7-9
- IV. Larson; Martens; Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention
- V. Ferguson, chs. 1-5.
- VI. Ferguson, chs. 6-10
- VII. Stuart, part 1.
- VIII. Stuart, part. 2.
- IX. Schoenfeld, chs. 1-4.
- X. Schoenfeld, chs. 5-8.
- XI. Garland, ch. 1.
- XII. Garland. Chs 7 and 8.
