The purpose of this seminar is to examine a number of criminal justice-related issues facing those who live and work in large American cities. The seminar will examine the social scientific literature involving a number of issues including:

- The politics associated with the operation of a major urban police department.
- The nature of community perception of local policing activities and behavior.
- The development of police officer belief systems.
- The effectiveness of targeted law enforcement efforts to limit the distribution of drugs.
- The development and operation of urban drug gangs.
- The causes and effects of delinquent behavior by adolescents living in the inner city.

As a backdrop for the seminar, we will be watching two seasons of the television series *The Wire*, which follows police officers, drug dealers, and citizens of Baltimore, Maryland. The reason for using a television series as a backdrop for a seminar is that it allows us to visualize items discussed in the social science literature that few of us have actually seen first-hand. I believe *The Wire* provides a sufficiently valid, vivid, and unbiased view of life in urban America to make for a very effective tool for learning about the issues discussed above.

**Required Texts**


**Course Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In class presentation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two short papers</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
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**SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS**

**WEEK ONE  August 28  Introduction**

**WEEK TWO  September 4  Drug Markets**

**Readings**


**WEEK THREE  September 11  CompStat**

**Readings**


**WEEK FOUR  September 18  Police Behavior and Attitudes**

**Readings**

**WEEK ONE  August 28  Introduction**

**WEEK TWO  September 4  Drug Markets**

**Readings**


**WEEK THREE  September 11  CompStat**

**Readings**


Readings

WEEK FIVE  September 25  Policing the Drug War
The Wire  Season 3 Episodes  9 and 10
Readings

WEEK SIX  October 2  Decriminalization of Drugs
The Wire  Season 3 Episodes  11 and 12
Readings
Wilson, J.Q. "Against the Legalization of Drugs," Commentary, 89, No. 2.

WEEK SEVEN October 9  Politics and Policing
The Wire  Season 4 Episodes  1 and 2
Readings

WEEK EIGHT  October 16  Gang Life
The Wire  Season 4 Episodes  3 and 4
Readings

WEEK NINE  October 23  Growing up the Inner City
The Wire  Season 4 Episodes  5, 6 and 7
Readings

WEek Ten October 30 Code of the Street

The Wire Season 4 Episodes 8 and 9

Readings


Week Eleven November 6 Examining the Code and Youth Violence

The Wire Season 4 Episodes 10 and 11

Readings


Week Twelve November 13 Police and Trust in the Urban Community

The Wire Season 4 Episodes 12 and 13

Readings


