

Economics 448W: Seminar in the Economics of Crime

Mr. Easton
Spring 2009

Course Outline and Reading List

Prerequisites: Economic 302; BUEC333 is strongly recommended.

Description: This course is a seminar that will address a limited number of topics in the economics of crime. Students will submit a major paper, comment upon colleagues' papers, and write occasional assignments. Paper topics will be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Texts: Paul J. Brantingham and Stephen T. Easton, "The Cost of Crime: 1998 Update" (Fraser Institute: 1999); Stephen T. Easton, "Marijuana Growth in British Columbia" (Fraser Institute, 2004)

Grading: Paper and other written work 50%; Quiz 20%; Comments on the paper of others 20%; Class Participation 10%. **Attendance is required.** No final exam is planned, but it remains an option should a student miss another student's seminar presentation. All papers are due at the time of the final examination.

Written Work: This is a "W" course. Graded work includes drafts of a major paper, comments upon colleagues' papers, and occasional assignments. The quiz will be in week 6 or 7 depending on how much we cover.

Office Hours in WMC 3641: Tuesday 2:30-3:30 and by appointment.

Outline

- Week 1: Introduction and basic data of crime
- Week 2: Illustrating economic theories of crime
- Week 3*Topics in Crime
- Week 4: **Topics in crime illustrated
- Week 5: Topics in Crime illustrated
- Week 6: In class discussion of student topics
- Week 7: In class discussion of student topics
- Week 8: First Student Presentations
- Week 9: First Student Presentations
- Week 10: Final discussion of major issues
- Week 11: ***Final Student Presentations
- Week 12: ***Final Student Presentations
- Week 13: ***Final Student Presentations

*Students will discuss their tentative topics

Final topics chosen; *Papers to be distributed 1 week in advance of seminar date

Introduction and Overview

DiIulio, John. "Help Wanted: Economists, Crime and Public Policy" Journal of Economic Perspectives Volume 10, Issue 1 (Winter, 1996): 3-24.

The Basic Data of Crime

How to access Canadian Data: Cansim II: <http://www.sfu.ca/rdl/> or
<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/researchtools/databases/dbofdb.htm?DatabaseAbbreviation=cansim>
http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/links_e.shtml
<http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/justin/>

Juristat: Get the electronic editions from the library

Other:

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>

<http://www.usdoj.gov/>

<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/crimjust/stats.htm>

The Cost of Crime

Paul J. Brantingham and Stephen T. Easton, "The Cost of Crime: 1998 Update" (Fraser Institute: 1999): pages 4-38 will give you a feel for Canadian data and identify some of the issues that will be our focus throughout the course.

Anderson, David A. "The Aggregate Burden of Crime" Journal of Law and Economics Vol XLII (Oct. 1999): 611-642 gives similar issues related to the US.

Weeks 3 and 4: Economic Theories of Crime and their Implications

Debora Moolenaar. "Expenditure on Crime in the Netherlands" Memorandum 2006-1 English reprint of chapter 7 from Eggen, A.Th.J., W. van der Heide (2005) (eds), Criminaliteit en Rechtshandhaving 2004: ontwikkelingen en samenhangen, Den Haag, WODC/CBS, Onderzoek en Beleid 237.

The Basic Economic Theory of Crime

This is the classic. You should "look" at it at some point and get a sense of how Becker likes to think about and talk about issues. Do not expect to follow the mathematics at this point.

Becker, Gary S. "Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach" Journal of Political Economy Volume 76, Issue 2 (March-April, 1968): 169-217.

Dan Usher. "The Dynastic Cycle and the Stationary State" The American Economic Review 79, No. 5 (December, 1989): 1031-1044 gives the full model, but a simplified

and more accessible version is in the first few pages of Dan Usher, "Education as a Deterrent to Crime" Canadian Journal of Economics May 1997, v. 30, iss. 2, pp. 367-84.

Robert Cooter and Thomas Ulen, Law and Economics, 3rd edition (Addison Wesley Longman: 2000): 427-454.

What Drives the Crime Rate?

Freeman, Richard B. "Why Do So Many Young American Men Commit Crimes and What Might We Do About It?" Journal of Economic Perspectives Volume 10, Issue 1 (Winter, 1996): 25-42.

Some European data.

Entorf, Horst and Hannes Spengler, "Socioeconomic and Demographic Factors of Crime in Germany: Evidence from Panel Data of German States" International Review of Law and Economics 20 (2000): 75 - 106.

Some specific examples of the empirical implications of economic theory

Levitt, S. D.. "Juvenile Crime and Punishment" Journal of Political Economy 106, (1998):1156–1185.

Kessler, Daniel and Steven D. Levitt, "Using Sentence Enhancements to Distinguish Between Deterrence and Incapacitation", Journal of Law and Economics, vol. XLII (April 1999): 343-363.

What happens when we add more police?

Levitt, Stephen D. "Using Election Cycle in Police Hiring to Estimate the Effect of Police on Crime" American Economic Review Volume 87, Number 3 (June, 1997): 270-290.

Does incarceration "work"?

Ken Avio, "The Economics of Prisons" European Journal of Law and Economics 6:143-198 (1998)

Avio, Kenneth, L. (1991). "On Private Prisons: an Economic Analysis of the Model Contract and Model Statute for Private Incarceration." New England Journal on Criminal and Civil Confinement. 17, 265–300.

Gendreau, Paul, Tracy Little, and Claire Goggin. November 1996. "A Meta-Analysis of the Predictors of Adult Offender Recidivism: What Works," Criminology, Vol. 34, Number 4, pages 575-608.

Andrews, D.A., Ivan Zinger, Robert D. Hoge, James Bonta, Paul Gendreau, and Francis T. Cullen. August 1990. "Does Correctional Treatment Work? A clinically relevant and psychologically informed meta-analysis," Criminology, Vol. 28, No. 3, pages 369-404.

Tonry, Michael and Joan Petersilia, Prisons, University of Chicago Press, Vol. 26, 1999. (chapters by Blumstein and Beck; Caplow and Simon, Hagan and Dinovitzer, and Gaes et al.)

["Paradise Lost & Regained: Crime in Canada and Around the World" Fraser Forum \(March 2001\): 5-7, 10.](#)

Recidivism

Peter J. Carrington, Anthony Matarazzo, and Paul de Souza. "Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort" Crime and Justice Research Paper Series, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, November 2005: pp. 91. (Cohort Analysis Canada 85-561-MIE2005006.pdf) <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/rs/rep/2006/rr06-7/rr06-7.pdf>

M. Keith Chen and Jesse M. Shapir "Does Prison Harden Inmates? A Discontinuity-based Approach" (MS September 2002)

Susan Clark Craig, "Rehabilitation versus Control: An Organizational Theory of prison Management", The Prison Journal Vol. 84 No. 4 (Suppl.), (December 2004): 92S-114S

DiIulio, John J Jr; Piehl, Anne Morrison "Does Prison Pay?" The Brookings Review, (Fall 1991) 9, 4: 28

Piehl, Anne Morrison; DiIulio, John J Jr "Does prison pay?" revisited The Brookings Review (Winter 1995) 13, 1; 20

The Capital Punishment Debate

Wolpin, Kenneth. "Capital punishment and homicide in England: a summary of results." American Economic Review 68 (May 1978), 422-7.

Avio, Kenneth L. "Capital Punishment in Canada: A Time-series Analysis of the Deterrent Hypothesis" Canadian Journal of Economics 12(4) November 1979: 647-676

Layson, Stephen. "Homicide and Deterrence: Another View of the Canadian Time Series Evidence" Canadian Journal of Economics 16(1) February 1983: 52-73

Some reflections by the scholar who started the modern debate about capital punishment.

Ehrlich, Isaac. "Capital Punishment and Deterrence: Further Thoughts and Additional Evidence" Journal of Political Economy Volume 85, Issue 4 (August, 1977): 741-88.

An iconoclastic view

Friedman, David. "Why Not Hang Them All? The Virtues of Inefficient Punishment" Journal of Political Economy Volume 106, Issue 6 Part 2 Symposium on Economic Analysis of Social Behavior in Honor of Gary S. Becker (December, 1999): S259-S269.

The Prohibition of Alcohol and Drugs

Mark Thornton, "Alcohol Prohibition was a Failure", Policy Analysis, Cato Policy Analysis No. 157 (July 17, 1991)

Clark Warburton, The Economic Results of Prohibition (New York: Columbia University Press, 1932)

Gray, James Henry, Booze: the Impact of Whisky on the Prairie West. (Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1972). 243 pp. HV 5306 G7

Easton, Stephen T. Easton, "Marijuana Growth in British Columbia" (Fraser Institute, 2004)

Gun Control

Gary Mauser, "Gun Control is Not Crime Control" (Fraser Institute, 1999)

Mauser, Gary A. and Dennis Maki "An Evaluation of the 1977 Canadian Firearm Legislation: Robbery Involving a Firearm" Applied Economics. March 2003; 35(4): 423-36.

Lott, John R., Jr. *More Guns, Less Crime: Understanding Crime and Gun-control Laws* (Chicago : University of Chicago Press, 1998) 225 pp. KF 3941 L68 1998

Rathjen, Heidi. *December 6: from the Montreal massacre to gun control : the inside story* (Toronto : M&S, c1999) 211 pp. HV 7439 C3 R37 1999

Organized Crime

Schelling, Thomas C. "Economics and the Criminal Enterprise" The Public Interest, No. 7 (Spring 1967) pp. 61-78.

Buchanan, James M. "In Defense of Organized Crime?" Simon Rottenberg, ed., The Economics of Crime and Punishment (American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, 1973)

Kugler, M., Verdier, T., and Zenou, Y. "Organized crime, corruption and punishment" Journal of Public Economics 89 (2005): 1639-1663.

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

Julian Sher and William Marsden, How the Biker Gangs are Conquering Canada (Alfred A. Knopf, 2003). A good discussion of what is happening in Canada and very specifically, Vancouver.

See also the series in the Vancouver Sun

The Mafia

Dickie, John. Cosa Nostra: A History of the Sicilian Mafia (Hodder and Stoughton, 2004)
Giovanni Falcone. Men of honour: the truth about the Mafia with Marcelle Padovani ; translated by Edward Farrelly (London : Fourth Estate, 1992.) HV 6453 I82 F3513 1992

Russian Mafia

James O. Finckenauer and Elin J. Waring, The Russian Mafia in America: Immigration Culture and Crime (Northeastern University Press, 1998)

Vaksberg, Arkady. The Soviet Mafia (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1991) HV 6453 S73 V34 1991 Excellent introduction to the Russian kleptocracy prior to 1992.

Yakuza

David E. Kaplan and Alec Dubro, Yakuza: Japan's criminal underworld (Berkeley: University of California Press, c2003) 400 p. HV 6453 J33 Y355 2003

Hill, Peter B. E. The Japanese Mafia: Yakuza, Law, and the State (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.) HV 6453 J33 H55 200

Bertil Lintner, Blood Brothers: The Criminal Underworld of Asia (Palgrave Macmillan. 2002)

Triads

Gould, Terry. Paper Fan: the Hunt for Triad Gangster Steven Wong (Toronto: Random House Canada, 2004) Triads in Vancouver through 2003. HV 6248 W65 G64 2004

McIllwain, Jeffrey Scott. Organizing Crime in Chinatown (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 2003) HV6452 N7 M37 2004

Chin, Ko-lin. Heijin: Organized Crime Business and Politics in Taiwan (M.E. Sharp, Inc.: Armonk, NY, 2003). HV 6453 T28 C485 2003

Chin, Ko-lin. Chinese Subculture and Criminality: Non-traditional Crime Groups in America (New York: Greenwood Press, 1990) HV 6791 C53 1990

Frank Robertson, Triangle of Death: Inside Story of the Triads, the Chinese Mafia (London and Henley: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1977) HS 294 R6

Terrorism

Williams, Paul L. Al Qaeda: Brotherhood of Terror (Alpha: 2002)

Available Juristat – As of September 1, 2005

- Vol. 26, no.4 Crime statistics in Canada, 2005
Vol. 26, no.3 Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada
Vol. 26, no.2 Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2003/04
Vol. 26, no.1 Offences against the Administration of Justice, 1994/95 to 2003/04
Vol. 25, no.8 Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04
Vol. 25, no.7 Criminal victimization in Canada, 2004
Vol. 25, no.6 Homicide in Canada, 2004
Vol. 25, no.5 Crime statistics in Canada, 2004
Vol. 25, no. 4 Youth Court Statistics, 2003-2004
Vol. 25, no. 3 Canada's Shelters for Abused Women, 2003/04
Vol. 25, no. 2 Returning to Correctional Services after Release: A Profile of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Adults Involved in Saskatchewan Corrections from 1999/00 to 2003/04
Vol. 25, no. 1 Children and Youth as Victims of Violent Crime, 2003
Vol. 24, no. 12 Adult criminal court statistics, 2003/04
Vol. 24, no. 11 Victim Services in Canada, 2002/03
Vol. 24, no. 10 Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2002/03
Vol. 24, no. 9 Youth Custody and Community Service in Canada, 2002/03
Vol. 24, no. 8 Homicide in Canada, 2003
Vol. 24, no. 7 Private Security and Public Policing in Canada, 2001
Vol. 24, no. 6 Crime Statistics in Canada, 2003
Vol. 24, no. 7 Private Security and Public Policing in Canada, 2001
Vol. 24, no. 6 Crime Statistics in Canada, 2003
Vol. 24, no. 5 Breaking and Entering in Canada - 2002
Vol. 24, no. 4 Hate crime in Canada
Vol. 24, no. 3 Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2001/02
Vol. 24, no. 2 Youth Court Statistics, 2002-03
Vol. 24, no. 1 Trends in Drugs and the Role of Alcohol and Drugs in Crime
Vol. 23, no. 11 Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2001/02
Vol. 23, no. 10 Adult criminal court statistics, 2002/03
Vol. 23, no. 9 Impaired driving and other traffic offences - 2002
Vol. 23, no. 8 Homicide in Canada, 2002
Vol. 23, no. 7 Custodial remand in Canada, 1986/87 to 2000/01
Vol. 23, no. 6 Sexual offences in Canada
Vol. 23, no. 5 Crime statistics in Canada, 2002
Vol. 23, no. 4 Canada's shelters for abused women, 2001/02
Vol. 23, no. 3 Youth court statistics, 2001/02
Vol. 23, no. 2 Adult criminal court statistics, 2001/02
Vol. 23, no. 1 Motor vehicle theft in Canada – 2001
Vol. 22, no. 11 Justice spending in Canada, 2000/01
Vol. 22, no. 10 Adult correctional services in Canada, 2000/01
Vol. 22, no. 9 Pilot analysis of recidivism among convicted youth and young adults - 1999/00
Vol. 22, no. 8 Youth custody and community services in Canada, 2000/01
Vol. 22, no. 7 Homicide in Canada - 2001
Vol. 22, no. 6 Crimes Statistics in Canada, 2001
Vol. 22, no. 5 National Trends in Intimate Partner Homicides, 1974-2000
Vol. 22, no. 4 Criminal Victimization: an International Perspective
Vol. 22, no. 3 Youth Court Statistics, 2000/01
Vol. 22, no. 2 Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 2000/01
9
Vol. 22, no. 1 Case Processing in Criminal Courts, 1999/00
Vol. 21, no. 12 Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 1999/00
Vol. 21, no. 11 Crime Comparisons between Canada and the United States
Vol. 21, no. 10 Sentencing in Adult Criminal Courts, 1999/00

Vol. 21, no. 9 Homicide in Canada - 2000
 Vol. 21, no. 8 Crime statistics in Canada, 2000
 Vol. 21, no. 7 Spousal violence after marital separation
 Vol. 21, no. 6 Children witnessing family violence
 Vol. 21, no. 5 Adult correctional services in Canada, 1999-00
 Vol. 21, no. 4 Problem behaviour and delinquency in children and youth
 Vol. 21, no. 3 Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00
 Vol. 21, no. 2 Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00
 Vol. 21, no. 1 Canada's shelters for abused women, 1999-2000
 Vol. 20, no. 13 Break and enter, 1999
 Vol. 20, no. 12 Public attitudes toward the criminal justice system
 Vol. 20, no. 11 Criminal harassment
 Vol. 20, no. 10 Criminal victimization in Canada, 1999
 Vol. 20, no. 9 Homicide in Canada, 1999
 Vol. 20, no. 8 Youth custody and community services in Canada, 1998-99
 Vol. 20, no. 7 Sentencing of young offenders in Canada, 1998/99
 Vol. 20, no. 6 Alternative measures in Canada, 1998-99
 Vol. 20, no. 5 Crime statistics in Canada, 1999
 Vol. 20, no. 4 The justice factfinder, 1998
 Vol. 20, no. 3 Adult correctional services in Canada, 1998-99
 Vol. 20, no. 2 Youth court statistics, 1998/99 Highlights
 Vol. 20, no. 1 Adult criminal court statistics, 1998/99
 Vol. 19, no. 13 Youth violent crime
 Vol. 19, no. 12 Justice spending in Canada
 Vol. 19, no. 11 Impaired driving in Canada, 1998
 Vol. 19, no. 10 Homicide in Canada, 1998
 Vol. 19, no. 9 Crime statistics in Canada, 1998
 Vol. 19, no. 8 Alternative measures for youth in Canada
 Vol. 19, no. 7 The justice factfinder 1997
 Vol. 19, no. 6 Canada's shelters for abused women
 Vol. 19, no. 5 Aboriginal inmates, and inmates serving life sentences: a one day snapshot
 Vol. 19, no. 4 Adult correctional services in Canada, 1997-98
 Vol. 19, no. 3 Sex offenders
 Vol. 19, no. 2 Youth court statistics 1997-98 highlights
 Vol. 19, no. 1 Illicit drugs and crime in Canada
 Vol. 18, no. 14 Court statistics, 1997-98
 Vol. 18, no. 13 Private security and public policing in Canada
 Vol. 18, no. 12 Homicide in Canada, 1997
 Vol. 18, no. 11 Canadian crime statistics, 1997
 Vol. 18, no. 10 Legal aid in Canada: 1996-97
 Vol. 18, no. 9 Violence Committed by Strangers
 Vol. 18, no. 8 A one-day snapshot on inmates in Canada's adult correctional facilities
 Vol. 18, no. 7 Adult criminal court statistics, 1996-97
 Vol. 18, no. 6 Victimization: an international perspective
 Vol. 18, no. 5 Breaking and entering in Canada, 1996
 Vol. 18, no. 4 The changing nature of fraud in Canada
 Vol. 18, no. 3 Adult correctional services in Canada, 1996-97
 Vol. 18, no. 2 Missing and abducted children
 Vol. 18, no. 1 Motor vehicle theft in Canada - 1996
 Vol. 17, no. 13 The justice data factfinder
 Vol. 17, no. 12 Impaired driving in Canada, 19

