

AGENDA
CRJU 2020
FALL TERM 2014
ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

Week 2

1. Are there any questions about the Greeting Letter, Syllabus, Student Bio Forms, etc.?
2. Employment. Some students may be looking for work. I can help write resumes if you like. It is always preferable to do something related to your future profession. If you can get an on-campus job, that has some advantages in terms of efficiency and networking with faculty and students.
3. Graduate school. It might be a good idea for some students. Less class time. More homework. Easier grading. Students enjoy the classes more than undergrad courses. If you are in the top half of your class in undergrad school, it is something you might want to consider.
4. WA-1. Any discussion? Turn in at the end of Monday class. Writing Assignment 1 (WA-1): Write a 300-word paper on your goals for the course. It will respond to the following question. *You have enrolled in this course, and you will be investing significant time into it. What are your goals for the course? What do you hope to have learned/ accomplished by the end of the term? What resources do you plan to use (e.g., instructor, Internet, college library, interviews of professionals)? What are you willing to invest in this course to achieve the goals that you have set?* Come to class prepared to discuss on Monday of Week 2. Submit at the conclusion of class. At the end of the term you will be writing a short paper that evaluates whether or not you achieved your goals. You can score up to 10 points on this assignment. **In addition to submitting a hard copy, please submit it via e-mail. Use a file name that includes your name and WA-1. Example: "Williams WA-1"**
5. Reading assignment. Textbook Chapter 1. Prior to Monday of Week 2, read all of Chapter 1. Come to class prepared to discuss.
6. Writing Assignment. WA-2. Write a 300-word summary of Chapter 1. Submit it at the end of class on Monday of Week 2. You can score up to 10 points on this assignment.
7. News clips. We will discuss these in class. Please read the articles and my commentary below.
 - *Fraud office to pay tycoon.* In England, there is a law enforcement agency called the Serious Fraud Office. They went after the Tchenguiz brothers, accusing them of illegal behavior in connection with a bank in Iceland. The Serious Fraud Office mishandled the case, and the brothers were thereby harmed. The fraud

office paid the brothers over \$5 million in damages. When US prosecutors mishandle a case, does the defendant sue and win damages?

- *China anti-graft push snares senior target.* The head man in China, President Xi Jinping, is pushing to end graft in the government and the Communist Party. This article describes how retired general Xu Caihou has been investigated for taking bribes (and perhaps for other misdeeds). He has been expelled from the Party, and it appears that the criminal justice process will be used to try and punish him.
- *Xi's anti-fraud crackdown reduces allure of joining Communist party.* The new boss in China is coming down hard on Party members who misbehave. This seems to be discouraging young recruits who see less opportunity in government jobs if they will not be allowed to accept bribes.
- *CIA inquiry finds that officers broke into Senate computers.* The Senate Intelligence Committee has responsibility for legislative oversight of the Central Intelligence Agency. Being a spy agency, the CIA has lots of horsepower in spying techniques. It appears that someone in the CIA "broke into" the Senate Committee's computers. The article mentions that the CIA also tried to have Senate staff prosecuted (I'm not sure for what). One of the things that seems to be happening is the CIA seems to be on the defensive. In turn, they seem to be launching counterattacks on people and organizations that are critical of the agency. So they are looking for opportunities to make their critics and enemies look bad. I interpret this as *team spirit* in the CIA that encourages people to protect the agency by attacking presumed enemies.
- *US defends spy agency over privacy disclosures.* One of the topics much in the news during 2014 has been the National Security Agency. It is big, five times larger than the CIA. NSA mostly does electronic spying using telephones, computers, etc. Edward Snowden was a contractor to NSA who became disturbed about the agency's behavior. Among other things, the agency was doing some types of spying on Americans, while it was denying that it was doing so. NSA has been actively engaged in trying to discredit Snowden, saying that he was a very minor player, he did not have sensitive information, etc. However, on several occasions, it became clear that NSA was not telling the truth. NSA is supposed to use safeguards to protect the information that it collects, but it appears that Snowden was able to override those safeguards. So some questions come to mind.
 - (1) In performing its duty to fight terrorism and keep an eye on enemies of the US, how much power does the NSA have? For example, should they be allowed to record every phone call from/to every person in the US?
 - (2) When they record a phone call, how do they decide whether it is useful (i.e., is a conversation from a suspected terrorist) or not useful (e.g., a happy birthday call between relatives)?

- (3) One of the reasons why East Germany collapsed 25 years ago was their government was spending huge money spying on their own people. Do we want NSA to creep in that direction?

NSA was in the process of building a multibillion dollar data center in the Mountain West region to store all this phone data; that project may be on hold, because there is a proposal to have the phone companies store all these call records.

- *Britain's crime of complicity.* This is an editorial. There are concerns that politicians and public officials participated in child molestation activity over a long period of time, and their misdeeds were covered up. Over 100 case files are missing. A high level investigation has been launched, with considerable publicity.
- *US ruling shields cellphones from warrantless searches.* The US Supreme Court has ruled that law enforcement agencies may not search cell phones without a warrant. "The vast amount of data contained on modern cellphones must be protected from routine inspections." This means that police will now need to do some extra paperwork if they want to go into a person's cell phone.
- *One blind spot about guns.* This is an editorial. It points out that the American government recognized that cars presented risks, so measures were taken to reduce those risks, with excellent results. Meanwhile, today's efforts to make guns safer are always thwarted. Now we have 30,000 people per year killed by guns. The author believes we need to treat guns like cars, not take them away, but regulate them. Did you know that:
 - (1) There are 300 million guns in the US, one for every person?
 - (2) The degree of gun violence is much higher in the US than in most developed countries. For example, in most western countries, emergency ward physicians see so few gun injuries that they have no training on how to handle them. Meanwhile, ER doctors in urban US hospitals normally have training to handle people who have been injured by gunfire.
- *Psychiatric assessment finds Pistorius fit.* Oscar Pistorius is a South African runner who became famous because, despite being physically disabled (missing part of his legs), he was able to compete in the Olympic Games. He became a celebrity in South Africa. He became romantically involved with Reeva Steenkamp, a top model and attorney (a celebrity in her own right). In 2013 he shot and killed her. The trial has been under way during the summer of 2014. The TV coverage has been pretty good. The trial resulted in Oscar being sent for a psychiatric assessment (which is the subject of the article). They do not use jury trials in South Africa. A lady judge is hearing the case. The prosecution says that Pistorius lost his temper and killed her intentionally. The defense says he

believed there was a burglar in their home, and he believed the burglar was in the bathroom when he fired through the door. Both stories look believable to me. I think he should go to jail for manslaughter. Keep in mind that:

- (1) There is a high crime rate in South Africa. It is not unusual for people to be mugged in broad daylight in city parks. Maybe Pistorius was paranoid.
- (2) Moreover, Pistorius seems like a very nervous person, and maybe this partially explains what he did and why. Maybe there should be a common sense rule that nervous people should not keep guns.
- (3) My father had a rule that said: "If people store and use alcohol in their home, they should not keep guns there." Because he drank beer, he did not keep guns in our house.