SPEA V450: The Failure of Criminal Policy
9:30-10:45AM  Monday/Wednesday  Course Number 31394
Briscoe C135

Prof. Sean Nicholson-Crotty

Course Description:

Criminal justice policy in the United States is often criticized for its disparate impact on racial minorities, its high financial costs, and it’s very tenuous relationship to actual crime rates. The purpose of this course is, in part, to help students evaluate these claims through an objective assessment of the impact and effectiveness of justice policies. The class is also designed, however, to give students an understanding of the political and institutional factors that drive the formulation and implementation of criminal justice policies. Acknowledging these factors is crucial to an understanding not only of the major criticisms of U.S. justice policy, but also why, despite its many detractors, major changes to justice policy are so difficult to make.

Prof. Sean Nicholson-Crotty is an associate professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. His professional interests are in Public Management, Federalism and IGR, and Comparative State Policy.