

AGENDA
CRJU 2020
FALL TERM 2014
ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

Week 3

1. **Writing assignments. When you e-mail your papers to me, please use a file name that includes your name and WA-1. Example: “Williams WA-1”**
2. Chapter 2. Prior to Monday of Week 3, read all of Chapter 2. Come to class prepared to discuss.
3. WA-3. Write a 300-word summary of Chapter 2. Submit it at the end of class on Week 3. You can score up to 10 points on this assignment.
4. Class discussion of Chapter 2.
5. News Clips.
 - *Effingham pig stabber gets five years in prison.* We mentioned this during class in Week 1. In some respects, this is a crime against property, and the defendant should be fined and/or given a small misdemeanor sentence. Perhaps let him pick up litter by the highway for a year of Saturdays. But his behavior was vicious and antisocial. People care about animals. He was convicted of a felony, and he was sentenced to five years in jail. Is it fair to our society to spend \$25,000 per year to house and feed this man, when his violence was not directed toward a human being?
 - *New trial sought in 2010 death of Tennessee prisoner.* Prison guards were “extracting” a prisoner from his cell. A choke hold was used. The prisoner suffocated and died. His mother sued. Her case was not successful. Now she is back for more.
 - *Key factor in police shootings is “reasonable fear of imminent threat.”* This article indicates that there is a national standard which prescribes when it is appropriate for a police officer to use a gun. I suspect that this standard will be used to investigate the Ferguson, MO case.
 - *Savannah-Chatham officer fired after shooting.* In 2013, officer Bobby Waiters was responding to reports of late night gunfire outside the Island Breeze

nightclub. He went into the back yard of a nearby resident, and there he shot an unarmed person (a non-fatal shooting). The shooting victim was in the back yard because he was running from the gunfire at the nightclub. The grand jury decided not to indict Waiters on an aggravated assault charge. However, a police department Internal Affairs investigation decided that Waiters had not followed the rules. They concluded that Waiters was not confronted with an immediate threat. He was fired from the Police force. It appears that the Internal Affairs investigators may have been using the “reasonable fear of imminent threat” standard discussed above.

- *New challenge for GA death penalty provision.* The US Supreme Court has ruled that intellectually disabled people cannot be executed for committing a crime. The Court left to the states to determine how a defendant’s mental condition is to be determined. In GA, the defendant must prove intellectual disability “beyond reasonable doubt.” Presumably, other states use standards that are easier for the defendant to prove, like “preponderance of evidence.” This means that GA is more likely than other states to execute a defendant who is intellectually challenged. Do you think that Georgia’s standard of proof is ethical?
- *Surveillance product maker’s stock soars.* For years, some police cars have been equipped with video cameras. When an officer pulls over a car, the camera records what happens when the officer walks forward to speak to the driver. Now a company has developed a video camera that is worn by the police officer (“body camera”). Some people believe that, when police wear body cameras, there is less probability of violent altercations with suspects. No doubt these cameras will be used to collect evidence. Sometimes video records will be helpful to prosecutors. Sometimes these video records will be helpful to defendants.

