Class Activities

Chapter 4: Contemporary Classical and Deterrence Research

**Class Activity 1: The Four Waves of Modern Deterrence Research**

**Group Activity**

**Instructions:** For each of the waves of modern deterrence research, answer the following:

1. How is the data collected?
2. How does the method of data collection influence the conclusions that can be reached?
3. Which method do you think makes the best persuasive argument to the public about policy changes in deterrence, and why?

**Class Activity 2: Rational Choice Theory**

**Paired Exercise (Simulation)**

**Instructions:** Please review the section “Rational Choice Theory.”Take 5 minutes to discuss the major points of Rational Choice Theory. One of you will play the role of the driver; the other will play the part of the friend. Apply what you know about rational choice.

1. You and a friend have been drinking at a party. You know that you both are intoxicated and beyond the legal limit to drive. Your friend insists that he wants to drive home. What argument(s) will you use to dissuade your friend from driving?
2. Did you persuade the driver with your arguments(s)? Why or why not?
3. Switch roles. Using a different set of rational choice arguments, try to dissuade your friend from drinking and driving.
4. Did you persuade the driver with your arguments(s)? Why or why not?

**Class Activity 3: Applying Theory to Part II Crimes—Driving Under the Influence**

**Policy Evaluation (Group Activity)**

**Instructions:** Please read the Illinois Youthful Intoxicated Drivers’ Visitation Program law. After reading the statute, answer the questions below.

**Zero Tolerance Law for Underage Drinking**

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have zero tolerance laws for drivers under age 21.

**Section 628 ILCS 5/11-501.7 Youthful Intoxicated Drivers’ Visitation Program**

(a) As a condition of probation or discharge of a person convicted of a violation of Section 11-501 (Operating a Motor Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs) of this Code, who was less than 21 years of age at the time of the offense, or a person adjudicated delinquent pursuant to the Juvenile Court Act, for violation of Section 11-501 of this Code, the Court may order the offender to participate in the Youthful Intoxicated Drivers’ Visitation Program. The Program shall consist of a supervised visitation as provided by this Section by the person to at least one of the following, to the extent that personnel and facilities are available:

1. A State or private rehabilitation facility that cares for victims of motor vehicle accidents involving persons under the influence of alcohol.
2. A facility which cares for advanced alcoholics to observe persons in the terminal stages of alcoholism, under the supervision of appropriately licensed medical personnel.
3. If approved by the coroner of the county where the person resides, the county coroner’s office or the county morgue to observe appropriate victims of motor vehicle accidents involving persons under the influence of alcohol, under the supervision of the coroner or deputy coroner.

(b) The Program shall be operated by the appropriate probation authorities of the courts of the various circuits. The youthful offender ordered to participate in the Program shall bear all costs associated with participation in the Program. A parent or guardian of the offender may assume the obligation of the offender to pay the costs of the Program. The court may waive the requirement that the offender pay the costs of participation in the Program upon a finding of indigency.

(c) As used in this Section, “appropriate victims” means victims whose condition is determined by the visit supervisor to demonstrate the results of motor vehicle accidents involving persons under the influence of alcohol without being excessively gruesome or traumatic to the observer.

(d) Any visitation shall include, before any observation of victims or disabled persons, a comprehensive counseling session with the visitation supervisor at which the supervisor shall explain and discuss the experiences which may be encountered during the visitation in order to ascertain whether the visitation is appropriate.

1. Given what you know about rational choice theory, do you think the Youthful Intoxicated Drivers’ Visitation Program is an effective strategy for dealing with drivers under the age of 21 who are convicted of drunk driving? Explain your answer.
2. What is another policy that you might implement to get underage drivers to think about the potential consequences of drinking and driving? Remember, your policy has to be based on rational choice.
3. Do you think your policy would be more effective than the Youthful Intoxicated Drivers’ Visitation Program? Defend your answer.