

Introduction to US Criminal Justice Policy

An Overview

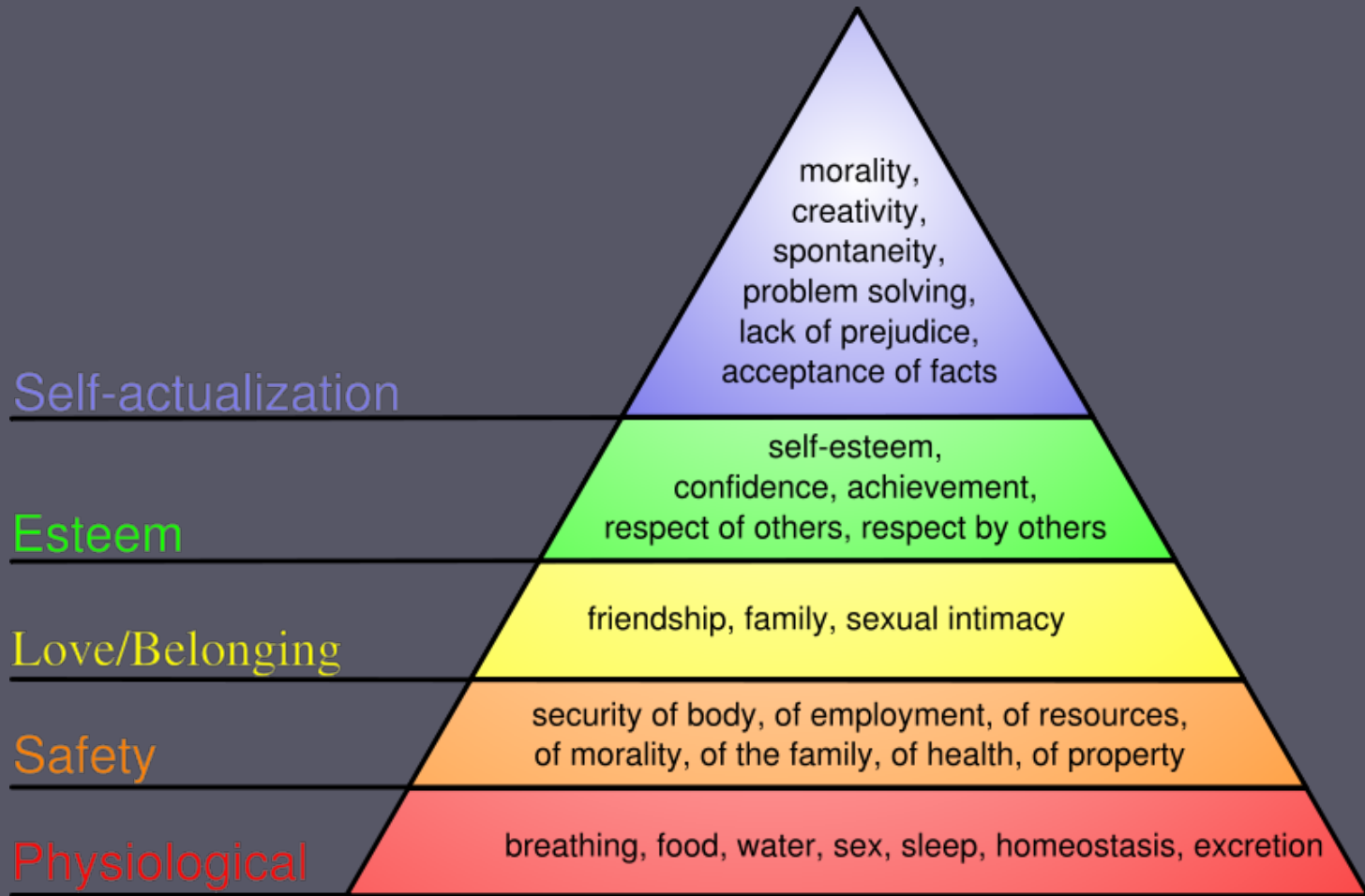
Objectives

- ▶ Bases for Criminal Justice Policy
- ▶ Overview of Crime in America
- ▶ Overview of US Criminal Justice Policy
- ▶ How to Choose a Legislation for Analysis

Bases for Criminal Justice Policy

- ▶ The Forming of Societies
 - The Need for Safety/Security (Maslow Hierarchy)
- ▶ The Forming of Governments (Types of Government)
 - The US Government
- ▶ The Legislative Process
- ▶ The Forming of Public Policy (Umbrella/Types)
 - Criminal Justice Policy
 - Laws and Penalties

Maslow Hierarchy of Needs



The Forming of Governments

▶ Types of Government

- Economy, Politics, Authority
- View Handout – <http://www.stutzfamily.com/mrstutz/WorldAffairs/typesofgovt.html>

▶ Government and Governing

- Three Branches of Government
 - Executive
 - Judicial
 - Legislative

The Legislative Process

- ▶ In a typical year, more than 5,000 bills are introduced in Congress. But only about 150 of them become law.
 - View External Link on Blackboard (How Bill Becomes Law – Chart and “Related Topics”)
 - See Handout
- ▶ Players and Decision Makers in the Lobbying Process
 - See Handout

Factors in the Legislative Process

- ▶ Players and the Decision Makers in the Lobbying Process
- ▶ Ideological/Theological Perspectives
 - See Handout
 - Religion
- ▶ The Media and Public Opinion
- ▶ Race and Class Factors
- ▶ Economy – Free Market
- ▶ Budget
- ▶ Party Politics

Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law

- ▶ Criminal law is divided in two parts:
 - Substantive and procedural
- ▶ Substantive law has seven elements
- ▶ Constitutional Law
 - The Supreme Court incorporated most of Bill of Rights with specific provisions to apply to the states
- ▶ Criminal law provides opportunity for various defenses
- ▶ Goals of the Criminal Justice System:
 - Doing justice, Controlling crime, Preventing crime

Public Policy

- ▶ Criminal Justice
- ▶ Culture and Society
- ▶ Economic Issues
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Government Operations
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Social Welfare
- ▶ Foreign Affairs
- ▶ National Security

Issues/Policy Areas

Issues/Policy Areas

How to Choose a Legislation for Analysis

▶ See External Links

- Government Information
- Almanac of Public Policy
 - Check “Directory” Listing on each Policy Area
- Criminal Justice Policy Coalition
 - State Legislation