

Weber State University – College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
MCJ 6150: Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice (CRN 11405)
Online – Summer 2014

Contact Information:

Instructor: Molly Sween, Ph.D.
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Required Text:

Barak, Gregg, Leighton, Paul, & Jeanne Flavin (2010). *Class, Race, Gender, and Crime: The Social Realities of Justice in America* (3rd ed.). Lanham, MD: The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-7425-9970-3.

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss the challenges that minorities involved in the criminal justice system (as victims, offenders, and professionals) face
2. Analyze controversial topics using the research and historical context of various groups

Course Overview:

This class will explore diversity through a unique lens; one which takes into account how social inequality and social control interact in ways that can differentially impact individuals as they come into contact with the American Criminal Justice System. As such, we will be exploring various types of diversities (i.e. class, race, and gender) and how these statuses can affect both those who come into contact with, as well as those who work for the system. It is the goal of this class that students will walk away with a broader definition of diversity and a deeper understanding for how the system responds to an ever changing society.

Class Website-Canvas:

This class will be utilizing Canvas (a newer iteration of Blackboard and other web systems previously used at Weber). The bulk of important information you will need to help you succeed in this class can be found there, such as; grades, assignment write-ups, etc.

You can access Canvas by following the steps listed below.

1. Go to [Weber State University Homepage](#)
2. Click on C (for Canvas-Login)
3. When prompted, log in using your Wildcat name and password

--If you have technical difficulties at any point during the semester, please direct your questions to WSU's Information Technology helpdesk: (801) 626-7777--

Assignments:

Your grade in this course will consist of the following assignments:

Assignment	Points
Syllabus Quiz	5 Points
Video Introduction	5 Points
Take-Home Exams (2)	1 @60 Points; 1 @40 Points
Discussion Posts (12)	12 @15 Points
Notes Guide (12)	12 @10 Points
Article Assignments (2)	2 @15 Points
Total Points	440 points

Take-Home Exams:

Rather than have you write one larger end of the semester paper, I am having you answer two smaller take-home exams throughout the course of the semester. **You are to work on these alone and not discuss them with your peers.** Each is discussed in turn below and additional information can be found on the Canvas website.

Take-Home Exam 1 (60pts.)

You will be asked 3 questions that cover the material presented in Modules 1 & 2 of the course. You will be given the questions 1 week prior to the assignment due date and must answer each question in 2-3 double-spaced pages. As such, the entire assignment should be somewhere between 6-9 pages in length and use proper referencing within as well as at the end of the paper. Please see Canvas for the grading rubric. **Due Friday, July 4th @ 5:00pm.**

Take-Home Exam 2 (40pts.)

You will be asked 2 questions that cover the material presented in Module 3 of the course. You will be given the questions 1 week prior to the assignment due date and must answer each question in 2-3 double-spaced pages. As such, the entire assignment should be somewhere between 4-6 pages in length and use proper referencing within as well as at the end of the paper. Please see Canvas for the grading rubric. **Due Friday, August 8th @ 5:00pm.**

Discussion Posts:

Throughout the course of the semester you will be posting on the class discussion board. These posts are designed to help you “grapple” with the material as we will most likely be covering controversial topics that you may or may not agree with. Each week, you will be making 2 posts: 1 in response to a question/comment that I raise, and one in response to a peer’s comment. Please see Canvas for the grading rubric. The assignment dates and requirements are specified below:

1. Every Tuesday you will post a 350 word reply to a question/comment that I will post on the previous Friday by 5:00pm. **Initial replies are due every Tuesday @ 5:00pm on the weeks they are assigned.**
2. Every Friday you will post a 150 word reply to 1 peer's comment. Your comment should agree/disagree with their point or further expand upon it. Mainly, something more thought provoking than, "Good point" will be necessary to fulfill this assignment. **Peer replies are due every Friday @ 5:00pm on the weeks they are assigned.**

Notes Guide:

Throughout the course of the semester, you will be creating weekly notes guides. These guides are designed to help you prepare for writing the exams, so there are no specific pages, font, or structure requirements. However, I would assume that in order to fully cover that week's material, you would need to write at least 1-2 pages worth of double-spaced text (or comparable). **Notes guides are due every Monday @ 5:00pm on the weeks they are assigned.** Below are probing questions to get you thinking about the types of things you should take away from your readings:

1. What was the reading about (in a synthesis rather than summary format)?
2. Does it relate to previous material we've discussed (if so how)?
3. What are key terms or concepts covered?
4. What (if any) empirical research or statistics did the authors cover?

Article Assignment:

There are 2 article assignments throughout the course of the semester, 1 that covers material discussed in Modules 1 & 2 and the other covering material discussed in Module 3. For this assignment, you are to select a scholarly peer-reviewed article from the WSU Library that is relevant to course material discussed in that section of the course. After doing so, you will provide a: 1) summary, 2) critique, and 3) reflection of the article and share your write-up as well as a pdf of the article with your peers. Please see Canvas for the grading rubric as well as an assignment template. **Article Assignment 1 is due Friday, June 27th @ 5:00pm and Article Assignment 2 is due Friday, August 1st @ 5:00pm.**

Grading Scale:

Final grades will be based on a point system; your total points/440pts. I use the following grading scale in assigning final course grades and there is no potential for extra credit in this course.

A = 93%-100%	B+ = 87%-89%	C+ = 77%-79%	D+ = 67%-69%
A- = 90%-92%	B = 83%-86%	C = 73%-76%	D = 63%-66%
	B- = 80%-82%	C- = 70%-72%	D- = 60%-62%
			E = 0%-59%

Policy Descriptions

Syllabus Flexibility:

The syllabus is intended to be used as an outline of course requirements and expectations. I reserve the right to change the layout of the class and assignments at any time for any reason. Substantial changes will be announced during lecture and on the Canvas class webpage.

Academic Accommodation Policy:

Please contact me if you have a documented disability that requires assistance, and work with the [Services for Students with Disability](#) office for coordination of your academic accommodations. The SSD is located in the Student Services Building, room 181. Their number is 801-626-6413.

Late Assignment Policy:

The only assignment that I will accept late is the Discussion Posts since initial posts must be made so that peers can reply. For each deadline on the discussion post that you miss, you will be deducted 1 point per day the assignment is late. All other assignments will lock immediately after their due date/times (which means you are unable to upload them past the due date/time) and late assignments will result in a score of 0. As such, plan accordingly to allow ample time to upload assignments should you run into any technical glitches or personal/professional emergencies.

Student Code Policy:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense. As a graduate student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with and adhere to the University's [Student Code](#). Violators will be referred to the Graduate Director for academic review and sanctions may be administered by the Department of Criminal Justice, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, or the University. If I suspect academic dishonesty, you will receive an E in the class and I will report you to the Department Chair and the Graduate Director for further review.

If you are unfamiliar with what plagiarism is or how to properly reference within a paper or bibliography, I have provided some helpful resources below for you:

- What is [plagiarism](#)?
- What is the software program [Turnitin.com](#) (which will be used to cross reference my exams) and how does it catch plagiarism?
- How do I properly [reference](#) within my paper and in a bibliography?

Tentative Reading/Assignment Schedule

B/L/F=Barak, Leighton, and Flavin

C=Reading on Canvas

Module 1: Social Inequality and Social Control

Week 1 (5/5-5/9)

Reading

- **C** – Hahn Rafter, Nicole. 1990. “The Social Construction of Crime and Crime Control.” *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 27(4): 376-389

Assignments

- Syllabus quiz – Due Friday, May 9th @ 5:00pm
- Video introduction – Due Friday, May 9th @ 5:00pm

Week 2 (5/12-5/16)

Reading

- **B/L/F** – Preface and Introduction
- **C** – Wacquant, Loïc. 2002. “From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: Rethinking the ‘Race Question’ in the US.” *New Left Review* 13: 41-60

Assignments

- Notes Guide 1
- Discussion Post 1

Week 3 (5/19-5/23)

Reading

- **B/L/F** – Chapter 1
- **C** – Sykes, Gresham M. 1974. “The Rise of Critical Criminology.” *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 65(2): 206-213

Assignments

- Notes Guide 2
- Discussion Post 2

Week 4 (5/26-5/30)

Reading

- **B/L/F** – Chapter 2
- **C** – Prokos, Anastasia and Irene Padavic. 2002. “‘There Oughtta Be a Law Against Bitches’: Masculinity Lessons in Police Academy Training.” *Gender, Work, and Organization* 9(4): 439-459
- **C** – Martin, Susan E. 1994. “‘Outsiders Within’ the Station House: The Impact of Race and Gender on Black Women Police.” *Social Problems* 41(3): 383-400

Assignments

- Notes Guide 3
- Discussion Post 3

Module 2: Studying Class, Gender, Race and Crime

Week 5 (6/2-6/6)

Reading

- **B/L/F** – Chapter 3
- **SKIM THIS READING: C** – Chambliss, William J. 1973. “The Saints and the Roughnecks.” *Society* 11(1): 24-31
- **C** – Schaefer, Diane. 2004. “Perceptual Biases, Graffiti and Fraternity Crime: Points of Deflection that Distort Social Justice.” *Critical Criminology* 12(2): 179-193

Assignments

- Notes Guide 4
- Discussion Post 4

Week 6 (6/9-6/13)

Reading

- **B/L/F** – Chapter 4
- **C** – Logan, John R. and Brian J. Stults. 1999. “Racial Differences in Exposure to Crime: The City and Suburbs of Cleveland in 1990.” *Criminology* 37(2): 251-276

Assignments

- Notes Guide 5
- Discussion Post 5

Week 7 (6/16-6/20)

Reading

- **B/L/F** – Chapter 5
- **C** – Laberge, Danielle. 1991. “Women’s Criminality, Criminal Women, Criminalized Women? Questions in and For a Feminist Perspective.” *The Journal of Human Justice* 2(2): 37-56
- **C** – Ogle, Robbin S. and Candice Batton. 2009. “Revisiting Patriarchy: Its Conceptualization and Operationalization in Criminology.” *Critical Criminology* 17(3): 159-182

Assignments

- Notes Guide 6
- Discussion Post 6

Week 8 (6/23-6/27)

Reading

- **B/L/F** – Chapter 6
- **READ PARAGRAPH BEFORE AND NUMBERS 1-7: C** – Gimenez, Martha E. 2001. “Marxism, and Class, Gender, and Race: Rethinking the Trilogy.” *Race, Gender & Class* 8(2): 23

- C – Bell, Kerryn E. 2012. “Young Adult Offending: Intersectionality of Gender and Race.” *Critical Criminology*. Under “Online First Articles” tab and “Articles Not Assigned to an Issue” link

Assignments

- Notes Guide 7
- Discussion Post 7
- Article Assignment 1 – Due Friday, June 27th @ 5:00pm

Week 9 (6/30-7/4)

Reading

- B/L/F – Chapter 7
- C – Warren, Patricia Y. 2010. “Inequality by Design: The Connection between Race, Crime, Victimization and Social Policy.” *Criminology and Public Policy* 9(4): 715-720
- C – Lauritsen, Janet L. and Karen Heimer. 2010. “Violent Victimization among Males and Economic Conditions: The Vulnerability of Race and Ethnic Minorities.” *Criminology and Public Policy* 9(4): 665-692

Assignments

- Notes Guide 8
- Discussion Post 8
- Take-Home Exam 1 – Due Friday, July 4th @ 5:00pm

Module 3: Class, Race, Gender and the Criminal Justice System

Week 10 (7/7-7/11)

Reading

- B/L/F – Chapter 8
- C – Quinney, Richard. 1975. “Social Power: Conflict Theory of Crime” in *Criminology* pg. 37-41
- C – Sheley, Joseph F. 1991. “A Conflict Theory of Criminal Law” in *Criminology: A Contemporary Handbook* pg. 21-39

Assignments

- Notes Guide 9
- Discussion Post 9

Week 11 (7/14-7/18)

Reading

- B/L/F – Chapter 9
- C – Engel, Robin S, Michael R. Smith, and Francis T. Cullen. 2012. “Race, Place, and Drug Enforcement: Reconsidering the Impact of Citizen Complaints and Crime Rates on Drug Arrests.” *Criminology and Public Policy* 11(4): 603-635
- C – Minkes, John. 2010. “Silent or Invisible? Governments and Corporate Financial Crimes.” *Criminology and Public Policy* 9(3): 467-473

Assignments

- Notes Guide 10
- Discussion Post 10

Week 12 (7/21-7/25)

Reading

- **B/L/F** – Chapter 10
- **C** – Chesney-Lind, Meda. 2006. “Patriarchy, Crime, and Justice: Feminist Criminology in an Era of Backlash.” *Feminist Criminology* 1(1): 6-26

Assignments

- Notes Guide 11
- Discussion Post 11

Week 13 (7/28-8/1)

Reading

- **READ PAGES 285-301: B/L/F** – Conclusion
- **C** – Lieber, Michael J. 2002. “Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) of Youth: An Analysis of State and Federal Efforts to Address the Issue.” *Crime and Delinquency* 48(1): 3-45

Assignments

- Notes Guide 12
- Discussion Post 12
- Article Assignment 2 – Due Friday, August 1st @ 5:00pm

Week 14 (8/4-8/8)

Reading

- **READ PAGES 301-322: B/L/F** – Conclusion
- **C** – Gonzales, Alberto R., Regina B. Schofield, and Glenn R. Schmitt. 2005. “Research for Practice: Enhancing Police Integrity.” National Institute of Justice Report: December 2005

Assignments

- Take-Home Exam 2 – Due Friday, August 8th @ 5:00pm