47: 202: 333 Race and Crime
3 Credits
Fall 2017

Tuesdays and Thursdays
1:30p.m.-3:00p.m.

I. Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Liza Chowdhury, PhD
Email: lizach@scarletmail.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Course Overview:
This course examines how race is related to offending, victimization, and various interactions with the criminal justice system. The course considers how race is defined at societal-, cultural- and individual levels, how these definitions are malleable, and how this impacts criminal justice policy. Explanations and explorations behind disproportionate minority contact and representation in the United States' criminal justice system are discussed in this course

B.S., Criminal Justice Program Learning Goals

Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark, students should be able to:

1) Describe the development and functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g., police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice), the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as well as the broader social, political, and economic world.

2) Describe the mechanisms, correlates, theoretical underpinnings, and situational contexts of crime, criminal behavior and opportunity, and techniques for prevention and treatment.

3) Apply and analyze theories related to the policies and practices of the criminal justice system and its major institutions.
4) Demonstrate the ability to gather, explain, and apply empirical research in the field of criminal justice.

5) Obtain a comprehensive knowledge about the process of conducting criminal justice research, and develop the skills to conduct criminal justice research with appropriate methodologies.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

1. Competence in understanding the major theoretical perspectives will be furthered through readings, lectures, discussions, and written work that address the major perspectives used to account for the sources and consequences of racial and ethnic inequality in crime and criminal justice processes. The central focus of the course is on increasing the multicultural understanding of crime and criminal justice within society based upon contemporary theoretical and empirical knowledge. In doing so, the course will address the major institutions that affect crime and that carry out the application of justice. It will also familiarize students with the major data sources and methods used in the field through reading and discussion of current research articles.

2. Critical Thinking will be advanced through reading, discussion, and written assignments designed to have students apply and critique perspectives and knowledge about the underlying sources and consequences of differential involvement in crime and in the application of justice within major institutes.

3. Advanced readings of scholarly articles will further the scholarship of students. In addition, all students will complete a research project that includes both an oral and written presentation of their research.

**Required Readings:**


**Course Requirements:**

*PowerPoint Slides and BlackBoard:* Blackboard will also be used for emails and announcements; as such, please check your email and blackboard daily. All students must have access to blackboard.

*Important Notice:* Please note that inherent to the nature of crime and the operational realities of the criminal justice system, there may be portions of some class materials (e.g., images, videos, hyperlinks, etc.), that may be graphic in nature and/or contain offensive language and commentaries. While these resources are not intended to be personally offensive or intrusive, it is important that students are aware of this possibility. Any student that is sensitive or adverse to such materials should see me or may excuse themselves from that portion of the class.
**Course Structure:**
It is this instructor’s experience that a multi-sensory approach to learning enhances student knowledge and understanding, particularly given the level and nature of this course. With the objective of facilitating the learning process, the following instructional resources will be integrated within this course: PowerPoint slide presentations, Internet Web Sites, videos, You Tube links, library resources, newspapers, handouts, student presentations, class discussions and debates, and guest speakers. Following the schedule reflected on this syllabus, students shall come to class having read and outlined the assigned chapters.

**II. Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introductions and Syllabus</td>
<td>Assignment 1 Due September 8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begin The Color of Justice Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Color Of Justice, New Jim Crow</td>
<td>Assignment 2 Due Sept 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Color of Justice, New Jim Crow</td>
<td>Quiz 1 September 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Color of Justice, New Jim Crow</td>
<td>September 28 Assignment 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>Color of Justice, Punished</strong></td>
<td>October 5 Quiz 2 Midterm Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td><strong>Color of Justice, Punished</strong></td>
<td>October 10 Class will be Rescheduled</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>October 12 Midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td><strong>13th Movie</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td><strong>Color of Justice, Punished</strong></td>
<td>October 26 Assignment 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td><strong>Color of Justice, Just Mercy</strong></td>
<td>November 2 Quiz 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td><strong>Color of Justice, Just Mercy</strong></td>
<td>November 9 Assignment 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td><strong>Color of Justice, Just Mercy</strong></td>
<td>November 14 Class Rescheduled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>November 16 Quiz 4</td>
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### III. Course Assessment and Grading

The final grade will be assessed based upon your performance on the following:

**Quizzes 20%**

There will be Four (4) quizzes throughout the semester to assess student understanding of reading assignments. Each quiz is worth 25 points =Total 100 points

**Mid-term Examination 20%**

Assigned readings, class presentations and discussions, PowerPoint slides, videos, and referenced websites. Format: Multiple Choice, Short Answers/Essays. Exam is worth 100 points

**Final Paper and Presentation 20%**

Each student will select a case in criminal justice that relates to the topics covered in class based on documentaries, discussions, readings and textbooks. The case must utilize all of the books assigned throughout the course along with journal articles or other research books. Each student must also complete a 10 minute presentation with power-point at the end of the semester.

A typed or hand-written short paragraph outlining the selected topic and the reason for its selection will submitted to the instructor on October 12, 2017 for approval. The topics will be reviewed and returned to students. Should there be any issues related to the chose topic or its scope, the instructor will discuss these with the student.

Your paper must site at minimum **three** scholarly journal articles or books. These sources can be found by using the Rutgers library or by utilizing the Google Scholar research engine. The textbook will not be counted as one of the three scholarly sources however if you use it, please cite it properly in the paper. The assigned paper is a research paper on your selected topic. For example, if you are doing your paper on women in prison, your paper should cite scholarly sources that have studied this topic. In your paper you should discuss the present state of women in the prison system, pick a theory that explains the dynamics of women and crime, causes for them to become
incarcerated, patterns, theories related to why women are in prison, policy implications and then conclude with your own opinion on the topic.

To ensure that your paper meets the necessary standard, it must conform to the APA Formatting and Style Guide which will be posted on Blackboard under Course Documents. This will guide you through the process of properly citing all outside sources, and will thus help you avoid any issues concerning your paper. Failure to follow APA formatting will result in term paper reductions and issues of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with guidelines established by the university.

The paper itself must be 5 pages double spaced using 12 point font. In addition to the written body of five pages, the paper should also have a cover page and a work cited page. Emailed papers will not be accepted. Final Presentations must be at least 10 minutes long and will be presented beginning December 5, 2017. Final papers are due on December 12, 2017 at the beginning of class. You must also submit it via safe assign. Late papers will not be accepted unless of emergency and a case by case basis with written documentation. = 100 points

**Current Event Homework Assignment** 20%

Class discussions are instrumental in encouraging dialogue, critical thinking, and developing effective communication skills. Following the assigned schedule handed out under separate cover, students are to report on a criminal justice current event that corresponds to the chapter covered on the week of the semester. No current event reports will be presented during the last week of classes.

Each student will write a paper and do a presentation about a recent criminal event or criminal justice action (e.g., major court decision, policing activity) that relates to race and ethnicity. The current event paper and presentation count for 9% of your course grade.

Reports are to be typed, limited to two pages only, and submitted on the date it is due to be presented. Please submit them in MICROSOFT WORD FORMAT in person at the beginning of class on the due date. Failure to submit reports on time or being unprepared to present a report will result in no credit. Each current event report is worth 20 points in total. Total of five assignments is 100 points.

**Class Participation**

This class is also designed to generate academic discussion based on scholarly research and current events related to the controversial topics in the field of corrections. Students must participate, formulate arguments, discuss assigned readings, promote intellectual discussions and be prepared to engage with fellow students in classroom activities. Therefore, it is the student’s responsibility to be prepared for classroom discussions and lectures. The final grade will be reflective of written assignments, exams, class room attendance and classroom participation. If you miss an in class assignment due to an absence, you are unable to make it up without valid documentation such as medical emergency etc.

**If student is punctual, participates, completes all in class assignments total is 100 points**

Attendance complies with University policies and shall influence a student’s final grade. In order to receive credit for attendance it is the student’s responsibility to sign the attendance roster before the beginning of each class. Failure to sign-in will be considered an absence. For every unexcused absence, 3 points will be deducted off a student’s final grade. Excused absences will be accepted
only for bona fide circumstances as determined by the instructor (e.g., illness, family emergencies, etc.). A request for an excused absence must be submitted via email within the week immediately preceding or following the class of the absence depending on the circumstances. All missed work due to an excused absence must be completed within a week.

**Punctuality** reflects personal responsibility, conscientiousness, dependability, and respect. Arriving late for class is disruptive to classmates, as it is to the instructor. Habitual tardiness (after 2 or more) will result in a 2 point deduction per class towards your final grade. Students arriving late are to sign the attendance roster after class; not when class is in session.

**Review of Quizzes and Exams.**
All quizzes and exams are reviewed within class. Students are welcome to review and discuss their performance quizzes and exams.

**Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>450-500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>85-89%</td>
<td>425-449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-84%</td>
<td>400-424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75-79%</td>
<td>375-399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-74%</td>
<td>350-374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>300-349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>001-299</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

- A  90–100%
- B+ 85-89%
- B  80-84%
- C+ 75-79%
- C  70-74%
- D  60-69%
- F  <60%

**Late or Missing Assignment Policy:**

*Late assignments will not be accepted barring exigent circumstances such as medical emergencies and must be verified with written documentation.*

*No makeup exams barring exigent circumstances such as medical emergencies and must be verified with written documentation.*

**IV. Course Policies**

**Classroom Rules**
Participation and Professional Decorum: Interaction among students, instructor, and guest lecturers enhance the exchange of thoughts and ideas, as well as provide for challenging dialogue. Diversity of
opinion serves to enhance the learning process; as such, students are reminded to be respectful of one another’s differences and opinions, mindful of the adage that “one can agree to disagree.” It is encouraged that students actively participate in class with meaningful commentary based on readings, media and research about relevant class topics because your final grade will reflect your participation. While I encourage debate, I will not tolerate cutting remarks, discriminatory language of any sort, harassment, or generalizations of groups. Racist, sexist, homophobic, degrading or discriminatory language will result in a dismissal from the course.

**Academic Integrity**

As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students [http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity](http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity)

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university’s policy will result in appropriate action.

**Academic Resources**

**Students with Disabilities**

Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/) or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Allen Sheffield  
Director of ADA Services and Academic Support  
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352  
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973.353.5300  
Fax: 973.353.5666  
E-mail: kate.torres@rutgers.edu  
Website: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/)

**Psychological and Counseling Services**

If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university’s psychological and counseling service center ([http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu); 973-353-5805), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers.
If you are interested in finding out more about

• Accelerated Master's Program (B.S. /M.A.)
• Criminal Justice National Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma)

Please refer to the School of Criminal Justice website [http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/](http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/)

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