

47: 202: 333:61 RACE & CRIME (SPRING 2019)

3 Credits
Spring, 2019

TUESDAYS
6-9 pm
1/22/19 – 5/15/19

I. Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Charlie A. Vargas, Esq.

Email: charlie@cvargaslaw.com

Phone: 917-572-2982 (between the hours of 5pm to 5:45pm.)

Office Hours: Between the hours of 5pm to 5:45pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Course Overview:

The strong connection between race and crime in the United States is prominent in the media and in the minds of the public. How large are racial and ethnic differences in criminal involvement in this country? How do we know that such differences exist? How can we explain ethno-racial differentials in crime in the United States? What implications do both the “facts” and the media portrayals of the race-crime connection have for how people think and act in this society? And, how does all of this filter through the various components of the criminal justice system? In this course, we will address these and other questions to learn about the state of knowledge on the relationship between race, ethnicity, crime, and criminal justice. We will discuss data, theoretical approaches, and current research about the ways in which race and ethnicity are connected with criminal involvement and criminal justice processing. In doing so, we will learn about the complex ways in which the race-crime-criminal justice connection is both a product of societal forces and affects broader social relations. The course will further all of the learning goals for the criminal justice major.

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 met

This course explores how race is a factor within the field of criminal justice, including principles of justice, due process rights, police and ethics, and a comparative approach to criminal justice in multicultural climates.

Prerequisite:

None applicable.

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:

The course objective is to gain an overall understanding of the policies and practices of criminal justice agencies and how they may directly or indirectly affect other criminal justice agencies, social systems, and/or key stakeholders without solely referencing personal experiences and/or long held beliefs.

Required Readings:

1. Walker, Samuel, Cassia Spohn, and Miriam Delone. 2018. *The Color of Justice: Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America, 6th Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

2. Russell-Brown, Katheryn. 2009. *The Color of Crime*. New York: New York University Press.

Course Assessment and Grading:

1. All students are required to bring their notebooks, ink pens, sharpened golf-size pencils and required readings to each class.
2. Each student will write a one-page reflection of the topics discussed in the prior class. This will account for **15%** of your overall grade.
3. Students are required to conduct a research project on an important event, practice or legal case related to race-ethnicity and crime or criminal justice. You will then make a presentation to the class about the event, practice, or legal case that both explains its central elements and discusses how it relates to theories, concepts, and evidence discussed in class and other academic publications. This assignment is worth **20%** of your course grade.
4. One in-class midterm examination will be given during the semester as scheduled on the course outline below. This exam is worth **25%** of your course grade.
5. A non-cumulative final examination will be given during the regularly scheduled final examination time. The time of this exam is noted below on the course outline. This final exam is worth **25%** of your course grade.
6. Attendance and active participation will account for **10%** of your grade.

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:

A late assignment would receive a **deduction of 1 point** off the overall grade for that class assignment absent good cause (i.e. illness with doctor's note, death in the family)

Missing assignments would receive a **zero** for the overall grade on that class assignment.

Course Structure:

The course will be taught through lectures and film.

II. Course Schedule

Date	Class Topic	Readings & Assignments Due
Class 1 <u>1/22/19</u>	<i>-Syllabus Review</i>	<u>Color of Justice</u> : Introduction to the Course; Race, Ethnicity and crime; Chapter 1
Class 2 <u>1/29/19</u>	Discussion of prior reading assignment	<u>Color of Justice</u> : Victims and Offenders: Myths and Realities about Crime; Chapter 2 and <i>The Color of Crime</i> ; External and Internal Images, Chapter 1
Class 3 <u>2/5/19</u>	Discussion of prior reading assignment	<u>Color of Justice</u> : Race, Ethnicity, Social Structure and Crime; Chapter 3
Class 4 <u>2/12/19</u>	Discussion of prior reading assignment	<u>Color of Justice</u> : Justice on the Street? The Police and Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Chapter 4
Class 5 <u>2/19/19</u>	Discussion of prior reading assignment	<u>Color of Justice</u> : The Courts: A Quest for Justice during the Pretrial Process; Chapter 5
Class 6 <u>2/26/19</u>	Discussion of prior reading assignment	<u>Color of Justice</u> : Justice on the Bench? Trial and Adjudication in Criminal Court; Chapter 6 and Mid-Term Exam Review
Class 7 <u>3/5/19</u>	<i>Mid-term Exam</i>	<u>Color of Justice</u> : Race and Sentencing: In Search of Fairness and Justice; Chapter 7
Class 8 <u>3/12/19</u>	Discussion of prior reading assignment	<u>Color of Justice</u> : The Color of Death: Race and the Death Penalty; Chapter 8
Class 9 <u>3/19/19</u>	SPRING BREAK-NO CLASSES	<u>Color of Justice</u> : Corrections in America: A Portrait in Color; Chapter 9
Class 10 <u>3/26/19</u>	Discussion of prior reading assignment & Oral Presentations	<u>Color of Justice</u> : Minority Youth and Crime: Minority Youth in Court; Chapter 10
Class 11 <u>4/2/19</u>	Discussion of prior reading assignment & Oral Presentations	<u>Color of Justice</u> : The Color of Justice, Chapter 11
Class 12 <u>4/9/19</u>	Discussion of prior reading assignment & Oral Presentations	<u>Color of Crime</u> : Measuring Racial Equity in Criminal Justice; Chapter 2

<u>Class 13</u> 4/16/19	Discussion of prior reading assignment & Oral Presentations	<i>Color of Crime</i> : Racial Discrimination or Disproportionate Offending? Chapter 3
<u>Class 14</u> 4/23/19	Discussion of prior reading assignment & Oral Presentations	<i>Color of Crime</i> : Science, Scientific Racism, and the Ethical Imperative
<u>Class 15</u> 4/30/19	Discussion of prior reading assignment & Oral Presentations	<i>Color of Crime</i> : In Search of White Crime; Chapter 7 and Affirmative Race Law; Chapter 8
<u>Class 16</u> 5/6/19	Review for Final Exam 13 TH Documentary	Study for Final Exam
<u>Class 17</u> 5/13/19	FINAL EXAM!	

IV. Course Policies

Classroom Rules

If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to keep abreast with the class.

No constant bathroom runs unless it is due to a medical condition. In that case, please see me so I can take a note.

If you have any questions or concerns about the class, please address me personally and not during class.

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>

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.

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/> or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Allen Sheffield
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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>; 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/>

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