

Race & Crime

47:202:333:71

COURSE DAYS: Monday & Wednesday

COURSE TIME: 7:30-8:50pm

COURSE LOCATION: CPS-105

I. Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: *Shelton L. McCall Jr., Esq.*

Email: *shelton.mccall@rutgers.edu*

Office Hours: *Office hours may be by appointment only*

Course Overview:

This course examines explores how race is related to offending, victimization, and various interactions with the criminal justice system. The course considers how race is defined, as well as racial differences in patterns and trends. The course critically examines explanations of these racial differences.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify racial differences in crime and incarceration.
2. Relate race to each step of the criminal justice system (police, courts, corrections).
3. Analyze statistical patterns of offending and victimization by race and ethnicity.
4. Examine the role of culture and the history of race in America in order to support appropriate responses to criminal justice issues.
5. Identify policy implications that arise from studying race, ethnicity, gender, and crime.

Required Readings:

Alexander, M. (2012). *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the age of colorblindness*. New York, NY: The New Press. ISBN: 978-1-59558-643-8

Gabbidon, S., & Greene, H. (2016). *Race and crime* (Fourth ed.). Los Angeles: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1483384184

Selected readings will be made available on Blackboard [BB].

BB must be access weekly for changes in reading assignments!!!!

Course Structure:

The course will be delivered by way of lectures and PowerPoint presentations [70%], class discussions, movies, in-class exercises, and/or guest speakers. [30%]. The lecturer will endeavor to deliver the course by citing the relevant theories, laws, and procedures, and identifying how these theories, laws, and procedures are applied.

Course Schedule:

	Date	Readings & Assignments Due	Notes
Module 1: Race & Bias	Week 1 9/3	<u>COURSE INTRODUCTION</u> See Black Board for readings.	
	Week 2 9/10	Reading Assignments: TNJC – Chapter 1 BB: TBD	
Module 2: Theoretical Perspectives on Race & Crime	Week 3 9/17	Reading Assignments: <u>Race & Crime</u> Ch. 1 BB: TBD	
	Week 4 9/24	Reading Assignments: BB: TBD	

Module 3: Policing	Week 5 10/1	Reading Assignments: <u>Race & Crime</u> Ch. 2 BB: TBD	
	Week 6 10/8	Reading Assignments: BB: TBD	
	Week 7 10/15	Reading Assignments: BB: TBD MIDTERM: 10/18	
Module 4: Courts	Week 8 10/22	Reading Assignments: <u>Race & Crime</u> Ch. 3 BB: TBD Student choice of Term Paper topics due: 10/24	
Module 5: Sentencing	Week 9 10/29	Reading Assignments: <u>Race & Crime</u> Ch. 4 BB: TBD	
	Week 10 11/5	Reading Assignments: TNJC – Chapter 2 BB: TBD	
Module 6: The Death Penalty	Week 11 11/12	Reading Assignments: <u>Race & Crime</u> Ch. 5 BB: TBD	
	Week 12 11/19	Reading Assignments: <u>Jim Crow</u> Ch. 3 & 4 BB: TBD	NO CLASS ON 11/21
Module 7: Corrections	Week 13 11/26	Reading Assignments: <u>Race & Crime</u> Ch. 7 BB: TBD	

	Week 14 12/3	Reading Assignments: <u>Jim Crow</u> Ch. 5 & 6	
	Week 15 12/10	Final Review Final Term Paper Due 12/13	
	FINAL EXAM WEEK	Final Exam 12/19 [6:20-9:20]	

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

Midterm	35%
Final	35%
Term Paper	20%
Participation	10%

TERM PAPER (30%): Choose a topic of concern or major case related to race and crime (e.g. disproportionate minority contact, hate crime, racial profiling, stop and frisk, etc.). Be sure to select a topic that has been examined in the literature in order to incorporate some of the most recent findings into your presentation. Submit your topic, short abstract (3-5 sentences), and five references in class on 10/24. Your final paper should: (1) Introduce the problem. (2) Discuss the background. (3) Review findings from the current literature. (4) Present a research proposal to address the problem. (5) Indicate any research and/or policy implications.

The final paper must be between 8 to 10 pages and must be submitted via “Turnitin” on 12/13/18 by 11:59 PM. Additional instructions will be discussed in class. **See Assignment Sheet** located on *Blackboard/Assignments*. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Please use the following additional specifications—you will lose points if these specifications are not met:

- size 12-point font
- double spacing
- no extra spaces between paragraphs
- one-inch margins

All papers should be written in APA format:

<http://www.citationmachine.net/apa/cite-a-book>

Papers should be proofread for spelling and grammar errors (note: computer spell-check programs are a good start, but are generally not sufficient).

PARTICIPATION (10%): A significant percentage of your grade is based on class participation and attendance. Your participation grade will reflect your level of involvement in course discussion and in-class activities. Professor will call on a number of students throughout the class. To that end, a student's non-attendance can or will adversely affect his/her class participation grade. If the said student. You are expected to contribute to each module by voicing your ideas, comments, and questions. To prepare for class, you should complete the assigned readings, take notes on the authors' main points, and think about possible questions or discussion points for the class.

Term Paper [20%]: Students will be required to elect to investigate a single theory or concept discussed in class and /or readings. The paper must be no more than 5 to 7 papers in length, double-spaced, 12-point Times Roman font, and in APA format. The student's choice of subject matter must be approved by the professor by 10/25/18.

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%

IMPORTANT: Every grade will be posted on Blackboard. Any issues regarding an assigned grade must be brought to the attention of Mr. McCall before the date of the final examination or last day of class. Do not wait until the last minute! You will know exactly what your final term grade should be before it is assigned because you will know the grades of every assignment/examination previously submitted. There will be absolutely **NO CONSIDERATION FOR GRADE CHANGES** on or after the date of the final examination. Grades are assigned objectively. You will get the grade that you earn.

IV. Course Policies

Classroom Rules:

All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. Laptops are permitted only if disengaged from the internet and other electronic devices should be stored away unless you specifically seek the instructor's permission. In this class, we may have discussions that challenge our taken for granted assumptions about crime and justice. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even examine

their own beliefs about the issues. While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark interesting discussion, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward other class members will NOT be tolerated.

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. This class has been taught in previous years. If a student is caught submitting another student's work in whole or part, the instructor will seek immediate academic disciplinary action.*

Academic Resources:

Edge.sagepub.com/peak3e

Students with Disabilities:

Rutgers University is committed to providing an 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
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/>

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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