

47:204:105: Race and Crime
3 Credits
Fall 2020
September 1st – December 22nd

Online – Asynchronous Format

Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: **Jordan Costa**
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Office Hours: **By appointment**

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.

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.

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:

There is no required textbook for this course, however my lectures will be heavily guided by Gabbidon and Taylor-Greene's, *Race and Crime, 5th ed.* You will not be expected to purchase anything. All of the required readings and other media materials will be posted to Canvas in either a PDF or web link format. Videos are also hyperlinked within the syllabus. Please let me know if you have any difficulty accessing the assigned materials.

Course Requirements:

This course will be administered completely via online communication, specifically Canvas. In order to be successful in this course, it is recommended that you have consistent access to a laptop/desktop and stable internet. Students are expected to consume assigned media (read,

listen, watch) and participate in weekly class discussions in a manner that reflects familiarity with the assigned media and lecture materials. Canvas will be used for several purposes throughout the semester, so please check it regularly. If something needs your immediate attention, I will post an announcement stating that there is an “Action Item.” **All assignments must be submitted by December 13th to receive credit – no exceptions.**

Offensive or Sensitive Material:

In learning about crime and justice, particularly race and injustice, students may encounter language, depictions, behaviors, and/or attitudes that they may find disturbing or offensive. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have about the course materials with me. If you would like to opt out of participating in a particular class module because of any discomfort, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

Course Structure:

This course will be delivered entirely online via Canvas in an asynchronous, sequential module format. **You must complete modules sequentially.**

Note: While this class is in an asynchronous format, the due dates and schedule provided are designed to give you structure. I understand that some of you may be working, taking care of loved ones, or managing many responsibilities at once and may not be able to meet every deadline as it is outlined in this syllabus. For this reason, the only assignment with a hard deadline is your group facilitation assignment (it guides the weekly discussion for the class on your assigned week). You may be as flexible with the other deadlines as you like, but I recommend sticking to the schedule that I created here. ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND MATERIALS MUST BE TURNED IN BY DECEMBER 13TH. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Each module will open on the Monday of each week. Within each module you will find your weekly assignments which include: a lecture video and quiz, a discussion board, and a weekly engagement assignment. You will also find the corresponding supplemental materials (i.e. readings and videos) within each module. They are not outlined in the syllabus because I want to be flexible to changing with the media and current events. Your discussion board posts and weekly engagement assignments will be due on the Sunday of each week by 11:59pm.

****Optional Discussion Section****

Although this course is designed to be asynchronous, I have decided to incorporate a discussion section for those of you who would like to participate in a live discussion of the weekly material and get my responses to any questions you may have. These discussion sections will be held on **Fridays at 2pm** and will be recorded and posted for those who cannot attend. If you can make it to these sessions, I encourage you to do so as the nature of this course generally necessitates some discussion-based interactions to foster intellectual growth.

As your instructor, you can expect that I will challenge you. You will be expected to have read all the assigned material and watch/listen to the assigned media. All assignments have been designed to develop your critical thinking skills as they pertain to your multicultural understanding of crime and criminal justice within society. I also understand that there are

expectations that you should have of me. As such, you can expect that I will: post all course materials in a timely fashion; be available via email to answer questions or schedule a virtual office hours meeting via Zoom; respect your valuable contributions to class, and; grade and provide quality feedback on assignments in a transparent, fair, and equitable manner, and in a reasonable amount of time. **All emails will be answered within 24 hours of receipt.**

Course Schedule

Date	Class Topic	Assigned Materials	Assignments Due
Week 1 (9/1-9/6)	Introduction	None.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “About Me” Questionnaire due 9/6 at 11:59pm • Syllabus Quiz due 9/6 at 11:59pm • No discussion section.
Week 2 (9/7-9/13)	Lecture 1: Overview of Race and Crime	See module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture quiz due 9/10 at 11:59pm • Discussion post due 9/13 at 11:59pm • Weekly engagement assignment due 9/13 at 11:59pm
Week 3 (9/14-9/20)	Lecture 2: Extent of Crime and Victimization	See module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture quiz due 9/17 at 11:59pm • Discussion post due 9/20 at 11:59pm • Weekly engagement assignment due 9/20 at 11:59pm
Week 4 (9/21-9/27)	Lecture 3: Theoretical Perspectives on Race and Crime	See module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture quiz due 9/24 at 11:59pm • Discussion post due 9/27 at 11:59pm • Weekly engagement assignment 9/27 at 11:59pm
Week 5 (9/28-10/4)	Race Awareness	None.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Race Awareness paper by 11/8 at 11:59pm • No discussion section
Week 6 (10/5-10/11)	Lecture 4: Policing	See module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture quiz due 10/1 at 11:59pm • Discussion post due 10/4 at 11:59pm • Weekly engagement assignment due 10/4 at 11:59pm

Week 7 (10/12-10/18)	Whose Streets?	https://www.whosestreetsfilm.com/watch-at-home/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to one of the prompts listed on the discussion board by 10/18 at 11:59pm
Week 8 (10/19-10/25)	Lecture 5: Courts	See module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture quiz due 10/22 at 11:59pm Discussion post due 10/25 at 11:59pm Weekly engagement assignment due 10/25 at 11:59pm
Week 9 (10/26-11/1)	Lecture 6: Sentencing	See module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture quiz due 10/29 at 11:59pm Discussion post due 11/1 at 11:59pm Weekly engagement assignment due 11/1 at 11:59pm
Week 10 (11/1-11/8)	Wellness Week	None.	Take a week for some self care. No discussion section.
Week 11 (11/9-11/15)	Lecture 7: The Death Penalty	See module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture quiz due 11/12 at 11:59pm Discussion post due 11/15 at 11:59pm Weekly engagement assignment due 11/15 at 11:59pm
Week 12 (11/6-11/22)	Lecture 8: Corrections	See module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture quiz due 11/19 at 11:59pm Discussion post due 11/22 at 11:59pm Weekly engagement assignment due 11/22 at 11:59pm
Week 13 (11/23-11/29)	Fall Recess	None.	None. No discussion section.
Week 14 (11/30-12/6)	Lecture 9: Juvenile Justice	See module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture quiz due 12/3 at 11:59pm Discussion post due 12/6 at 11:59pm Weekly engagement assignment due 12/6 at 11:59pm
Week 15 (12/7-12/13)	Final Exam	See module.	No discussion section.

Course Assessment and Grading

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

<i>Assignment Description</i>	<i>Linked to SLO</i>	<i>% of Course Grade</i>
Assignment #1 About Me and Syllabus Quizzes	N/A	5%
Assignment #2 Lecture Quizzes	SLO #1	10%
Assignment #3 Group Facilitation	SLO #3 and #4	10%
Assignment #4 Discussion Posts	SLO #1 and #3	10%
Assignment #4 Weekly Engagement Assignments	SLO #2 and #4	15%
Assignment #5 Virtual Office Hour Visit	SLO #1	10%
Assignment #6 Race Awareness Paper	SLO #1, #2, and #3	20%
Assignment #7 Final Examination	SLO #2 and #3	20%

ASSIGNMENT 1: About Me and Syllabus Quizzes (5%):

Complete the About Me and Syllabus quizzes in the Introduction module by the end of the first week of class (9/6).

ASSIGNMENT 2: Lecture Quizzes (10%):

There will be nine lecture quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will consist of 5 total questions, which will only be found through listening to the recorded lecture. In other words, you will only know the questions for the lecture quizzes by listening for them in the lectures I upload. The questions will be multiple, true/false, or short answers. They may or may not be relevant to the material being presented, but they are in place to ensure that you are paying attention and watching the lecture in its entirety. While it is not recommended, mobile device features have been enabled to take these quizzes via cell phone. Lecture quizzes will be due Thursday nights by 11:59pm.

ASSIGNMENT 3: Group Facilitation (10%):

At the beginning of the semester you will be randomly assigned to groups of 3-4 classmates. Each group will be assigned a week. Group members are responsible for creating a Google Doc or Word document that includes a brief summary of each assigned material (author, purpose, synopsis, takeaways) and two principle discussion questions for the class to respond to. This document and the two questions will be posted in the discussion board for the week and those who were not responsible for facilitation will be required to respond to at least one

of the questions in a discussion post (see below). Group documents must be sent to me via email by the Thursday of the respective week by noon.

ASSIGNMENT 4: Discussion Posts (10%):

During weeks where you are not assigned to be part of group facilitation, you will be required to respond to the prompts posed by the facilitating group in the corresponding discussion board for the week. You will be required to respond to at least one (ideally both) of the two questions listed in a response that is approximately 200-300 words in length. These responses are due every Sunday by 11:59pm.

ASSIGNMENT 5: Weekly Engagement Assignments (15%):

These weekly engagement assignments are designed to test your critical thinking and application skills. In each module, you will be tasked with responding to a prompt or completing an activity that pertains to the assigned materials and lecture topic for the week. Each response post must be 300-400 words in length and clearly respond to all parts of the prompt. These weekly engagement assignments should be uploaded by Sunday at 11:59pm. For more information, please refer to the Canvas page.

ASSIGNMENT 6: Virtual Office Hour Visit (10%):

You will be required to schedule a virtual office hour visit with me at least once during the semester. This can be done via a chat, phone call, or video call – whichever you are most comfortable with. Each meeting will be 15-20 minutes. You can use this time to ask me questions about the course, assignments, professional development, future career plans – whatever you choose. This will help me understand how the course is working for you and if any adjustments need to be made to accommodate your needs. Please email me with the subject line “Office Hour Visit” at whichever point in the semester you think a conversation would be most useful and once we agree on a time, I will send out meeting details. You must schedule this virtual office hour visit before November 20th.

ASSIGNMENT 7: Race Awareness Paper (20%):

In this assignment you are being asked to respond to the following prompt: “When did you first become aware of your race?” Your response should be a minimum of two pages (double-spaced, one-inch margins, Times New Roman, font size 12). This is intended to initiate the discussion on race and explore our individual positionalities.

ASSIGNMENT 8: Final Exam (20%):

The details of this assignment will be given closer to its due date.

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

A	90-100%	Work is <i>excellent</i> in quality; it is correct, comprehensive, and markedly superior
B+	85-89%	Work is <i>very good</i> in quality; it is correct and provides a detailed explanation in responses; exceeds expectations in some areas
B	80-84%	Work is <i>good</i> in quality; it is correct and provides a detailed explanation in responses
C+	75-79%	Work is of <i>acceptable</i> quality; may be missing or incorrect in a minor area; meets but does not exceed expectations
C	70-74%	Work is of <i>acceptable</i> quality; may be missing or incorrect in a minor area; meets but does not exceed expectations
D	60-69%	Work <i>does not meet</i> expectations for the course but passes; it is incorrect in one or more major areas
F	<60%	Work <i>fails</i> to meet minimum expectations for the course

Late or Missing Assignment Policy:

This course is self-paced. As such, there are no formal deadlines, however I have included suggested deadlines in our schedule to help keep you on track. There will be no penalties for not meeting the suggested deadlines, but **all assignments must be submitted by December 22nd to receive credit; no expectations.**

Examinations:

Examinations are to be taken during their scheduled times. Students who fail to take examinations on the prescribed date WILL NOT be permitted to take any examinations at a different time unless there are extenuating circumstances. Proper documentation must be provided before the scheduled exam date to be able to take a make-up examination.

IMPORTANT: Every grade will be posted on Canvas. Any issues regarding an assigned grade must be brought to my attention before the date of the final examination. 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/etc. This syllabus also states the value of each assignment towards your final term grade.

Course Policies

Digital Classroom Rules

All members of the class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. In the class, discussions that challenge our life experiences and take-for-granted assumptions about crime and justice will occur. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even reexamine their own beliefs about the issues.

While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark an interesting discussion, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward anyone involved in the class about their experiences, backgrounds, identity, or statements will NOT be tolerated at any time or in any format.

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.

Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the university as a whole. RU_N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For Individuals with Disabilities: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the summer session as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS at (973) 353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. You may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals Seeking Religious Accommodations: The Office of the Dean of Students is available to verify absences for religious observances, as needed. Contact the Dean of Students at (973) 353-5063 or via email at DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with Temporary Conditions/Injuries: Students who have experienced a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate should submit a request via <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>. Please see your wellness has an act of power and perseverance.

Absences: Per University Policy 10.2.7, you are responsible for communicating with your instructors regarding absences. The Office of the Dean of Students is available to verify

extended absences. Contact the Dean of Students at (973) 353-5063 or via email at DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For English as a Second Language (ESL): Students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a second language (ESL) should contact the Program in American Language Studies via email at PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. If you wish to report an incident, you may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. You may also submit an incident report using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does not have a reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973) 353-1918 or via email at run.vpva@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/>

Follow us, to stay up to date! @SCJ_apps

