

**47:202:333 Race, Crime and Justice**  
**3 Credits**  
**Fall 2022**  
**Hill Hall (Room: 107)**  
**September 06th - December 14th, 2022**

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**Course Information**

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor: **Christopher Chukwuedo**

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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 lectures will be heavily guided by Gabbidon and Taylor-Greene's, *Race and Crime, 5th ed* and The Oxford Handbook of *Philosophy & Race*. 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. Please let me know if you have any difficulty accessing the assigned materials.

**Course Requirements:**

This course will be administered both in-person and 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 along with showing up to class. 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 November 30<sup>rd</sup> 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 both in person and online via Canvas. All informational materials that will be useful to you throughout the semester can be found in the “For Your Reference” module.

Each module will open on the Friday of each week. Within each module, you will find your weekly assignments which (might) include: a 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 change with the media and current events. Your discussion board posts and weekly engagement assignments will be due on the Monday of each week by 11:59 pm.

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 office hours (including 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 48 hours of receipt.**

**Please put “Race and Crime” in the subject line of your email so I can identify it easily throughout the semester.**

### **Course Schedule**

| Date                            | Class Topic  | Assigned Materials | Assignments Due   |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|---|
| <b>Week 1</b><br>(9/06 - 9/08)  | <b>Introduction</b>  | None.              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Syllabus Quiz due 09/11 at 11:59pm</li> <li>● PowerPoint on Relativism</li> <li>● No discussion section.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Week 2</b><br>(9/13 - 9/15)  | <b>Lecture 1:<br/>Overview of<br/>Race and Crime</b>                     | See module.        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lecture quiz due at 11:59pm</li> <li>● Discussion post due 11:59pm</li> <li>● Weekly engagement assignment due at 11:59pm</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Week 3</b><br>(9/20 - 9/22)  | <b>Lecture 2:<br/>Extent of Crime<br/>and<br/>Victimization</b>          | See module.        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lecture quiz due at 11:59pm</li> <li>● Discussion post due at 11:59pm</li> <li>● Weekly engagement assignment due at 11:59pm</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Week 4</b><br>(9/27 - 9/29)  | <b>Lecture 3:<br/>Theoretical<br/>Perspectives on<br/>Race and Crime</b> | See module.        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lecture quiz due at 11:59pm</li> <li>● Discussion post due at 11:59pm</li> <li>● Weekly engagement assignment at 11:59pm</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Week 5</b><br>(10/4 - 10/6)  | <b>Race<br/>Awareness</b>  | None.              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Submit Race Awareness paper by at 11:59pm</li> <li>● No discussion section</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Week 6</b><br>(10/11- 10/13) | <b>Lecture 4:<br/>Policing</b>   | See module.        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lecture quiz due at 11:59pm</li> <li>● Discussion post due at 11:59pm</li> <li>● Weekly engagement assignment due at 11:59pm</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Week 7</b><br>(10/18- 10/20) | <b>Stories from<br/>the Streets</b>                                      |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Refer to assignment instructions in the module.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Week 8</b><br>(10/25- 10/27) | <b>Lecture 5:<br/>Courts</b>   | See module.        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lecture quiz due at 11:59pm</li> <li>● Discussion post due at 11:59pm</li> <li>● Weekly engagement assignment due 3/14 at 11:59pm</li> <li>● <b>ALL MATERIALS FOR WEEKS 1 - 8 DUE. NO EXCEPTIONS.</b></li> </ul> |

|                                  |                                     |             |  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| <b>Week 9</b><br>(11/01- 11/03)  | <b>Wellness Week</b>                | None.       | Take a week for some self care.<br>No discussion section.  |
| <b>Week 10</b><br>(11/08- 11/10) | <b>Lecture 6: Sentencing</b>        | See module. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture quiz due at 11:59pm</li> <li>• Discussion post due at 11:59pm</li> <li>• Weekly engagement assignment due at 11:59pm</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Week 11</b><br>(11/15- 11/17) | <b>Lecture 7: The Death Penalty</b> | See module. | <p><b>*This Session will be outside of the classroom due to ASC week*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture quiz due at 11:59pm</li> <li>• Discussion post due at 11:59pm</li> <li>• Weekly engagement assignment due at 11:59pm</li> </ul> |
| <b>Week 12</b><br>(11/22- 11/24) | <b>Thanksgiving Week</b>            | See module. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have Fun</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Week 13</b><br>(11/29- 12/01) | <b>Lecture 8: Juvenile Justice</b>  | None.       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture quiz due at 11:59pm</li> <li>• Discussion post due at 11:59pm</li> <li>• Weekly engagement assignment due at 11:59pm</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Week 14</b><br>(12/06- 12/08) | <b>Study Week</b>                   | See module. |  |
| <b>Week 15</b><br><br>TBA        | <b>Final Exam</b>                   | See module. | No discussion section.   |

### **Course Assessment and Grading**

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

*(I reserve the right to make adjustments to these weights and the contents of this syllabus, but will notify you well in advance if anything changes.)*

| <b>Assignment Description</b>                          | <b>Linked to SLO</b> | <b>% of Course Grade</b> |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Assignment #1<br/>About Me and Syllabus Quizzes</b> | <b>N/A</b>           | <b>10%</b>               |

|  |                           |            |
|--|---------------------------|------------|
| <i>Assignment #2<br/>Lecture Quizzes</i>               | <i>SLO #1</i>             | <i>10%</i> |
| <i>Assignment #3<br/>Group Facilitation</i>            | <i>SLO #3 and #4</i>      | <i>15%</i> |
| <i>Assignment #4<br/>Discussion Posts</i>              | <i>SLO #1 and #3</i>      | <i>10%</i> |
| <i>Assignment #4<br/>Weekly Engagement Assignments</i> | <i>SLO #2 and #4</i>      | <i>15%</i> |
| <i>Assignment #5<br/>Virtual Office Hour Visit</i>     | <i>SLO #1</i>             | <i>10%</i> |
| <i>Assignment #6<br/>Race Awareness Paper</i>          | <i>SLO #1, #2, and #3</i> | <i>15%</i> |
| <i>Assignment #7<br/>Stories from the Streets</i>      | <i>SLO #1, #2, and #3</i> | <i>15%</i> |
| <i>Assignment #7<br/>Final Examination</i>             | <i>SLO #2 and #3</i>      | <i>TBD</i> |

**ASSIGNMENT 1: About Me and Syllabus Quizzes (10%):**

Complete the About Me and Syllabus quizzes in the Introduction module by the end of the first week of class (09/11).

**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 class participation. In other words, you will only know the questions for the lecture quizzes by coming to class. 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.

**ASSIGNMENT 3: Group Facilitation (15%):**

At the beginning of the semester you will sign up for a topic to facilitate the materials for. There will be approximately 8-9 people in each group and you will divide the materials accordingly. (If there are fewer materials than group members, two group members will be responsible for one piece of material -- your choice on who and what those are.) 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. Each assigned material should be cited in APA format. 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 uploaded to your Group Homepage by Monday at 12pm. This can be found in the "People" tab on the left column of Canvas, then click "Project Groups." You will see three vertical dots in the row for your group and once you click on it, you will see "Visit Group Homepage." This is where all your content should be uploaded. One**

person should upload the collaborative document and each group member should upload their individual summary to the “Files” tab so I know who wrote what to give you credit.

I will walk through this in class. Please refer to the introductory module for an example of what the collaborative document should look like.

#### **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 assignments should be thought of as formal activities and *not* discussion posts. Take time and put effort into answering them. Responses that do not meet the minimum word count or do not demonstrate critical thought will not receive a grade better than 50%. Weekly engagement assignments should be uploaded by Sunday at 11:59pm. For more information, please refer to the Canvas page.

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

You will be required to schedule an office hour visit (**can be virtual**) with me at least once during the semester. This can be done via a in-person, 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 schedule yourself in the calendar tool located in the “For Your Reference” module. You must schedule this office hour visit before Nov 11th. The weeks of the course will be reserved for office hour meetings with students who need help completing the semester for no points.

#### **ASSIGNMENT 7: Race Awareness Paper (15%):**

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. Please refer to module for more information.

**ASSIGNMENT 8: Stories from the Streets (15%):**

In this assignment, you will be required to watch two of the four movies listed and respond to the discussion board prompts for both films. Your response should be 300-400 words. You will also be expected to respond to one student in each discussion board. In other words, you will watch two movies; write a 300-400 word response in the discussion board for Movie 1; write a 300-400 word response in the discussion board for Movie 2; respond to a classmate's response in the discussion board for Movie 1; and respond to a classmate's response in the discussion board for Movie 2.

**ASSIGNMENT 9: Final Exam (TBD):**

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:**

**All assignments must be submitted by Dec 3rd to receive credit; no exceptions.**

**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](http://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS at (973) 353-5375 or via email at [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu). You may also submit an incident report using the following link: [tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm](http://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](mailto: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/>

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