

RACE, CLASS, GENDER AND JUSTICE

Justice Studies/Sociology 422
Spring 2012

Professor:

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Justice Studies Program
Social Science Division
Lewis-Clark State College
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Class Meets:

Tuesday & Thursday 10:30am – 11:45am in Sam Glenn #126

Office Hours:

Monday 1:30pm-2:45pm
Tuesday 3:00pm-4:15pm
Wednesday 1:30pm-2:45pm
and by appointment

Course Description:

This course explores the effects of race, class and gender on the criminal justice system. Patterns of offending and victimization associated with the categories of race, class and gender will be studied. Students will study topics such as profiling, disparities in sentencing and the death penalty, minority overrepresentation in prison, responses to battering, and criminal justice system employment practices. Pre-requisite: JS 103 or SOC 101 or instructor permission. Cross-listed with SOC 422.

Goals:

It is expected that students will become more adept at utilizing social scientific analysis to understand the relationships between elements of social life, systematic inequality, and the justice system. The written work and verbal presentations of students should reflect systematic, logical arguments clearly supported by theory and research.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation 25%
Exam One 25%
Exam Two 25%
Exam Three 25%

Class Participation:

Attendance is expected and active participation is essential for the success of this class. Students who participate actively derive the most lasting benefits from the course. Attendance will be taken most days, and at the end of the semester, students with an attendance record of 90% or better will receive an extra one percent added to their course grade. Participation includes attending class meetings and contributing

to class discussions. In order to ensure adequate student discussion, I reserve the right to call on students to discuss the topics of the day, so please be prepared to contribute.

Participation also includes short reports (approximately 2-3 typed pages) on selected issues in the readings (to be assigned in class). The reports are important because they will serve as preparation for discussions. The reports will be evaluated on the quality and thoughtfulness of your social scientific analysis of the assigned material. They will be graded as: excellent, surpassing expectations (A), good, competent work (B), satisfactory (C), not satisfactory (D), failing (F).

REPORTS WILL BE DUE IN CLASS. LATE REPORTS WILL BE PENALIZED A FULL LETTER GRADE (e.g. a late "B" will become a "C"). FIVE (5) REPORTS WILL BE ASSIGNED. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THREE (3). YOU MAY SUBMIT FIVE REPORTS IF YOU NEED EXTRA CREDIT. The extra credit will be applied towards your participation grade. An "A" extra credit report adds three percent to your participation grade, a "B" is worth two percent, and a "C" is worth one percent.

Also note that your reports must contain references for paraphrased and quoted material. See the end of the syllabus for models of reference citations.

Exams:

Three exams (including the final exam) consisting of essay, multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blanks questions will be administered in class. Study questions will be available prior to the exams to help you prepare.

Student Conduct:

"Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. The College functions to promote the cognitive and psychosocial development of all students. Therefore, all work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts and current understanding" (Provost Fernandez, 2008).

All students are expected to take the short tutorial on citing sources at:

http://www.lcsc.edu/library/ILI/Module_2A/Welcome.htm

Any student with questions remaining as to what constitutes cheating or plagiarism should consult the instructor in order to avoid any misunderstanding. If a student is caught cheating, at minimum, he/she will fail the assignment, the Judicial Affairs Officer will be notified and the incident recorded. Students must also keep copies of any written work turned in. Moreover, we will be dealing with controversial issues at times and it is essential that discussions remain constructive and respectful.

Please refrain from gaming, web surfing or using your cell phone during class.

Assignment Grading:

- A 93%
- A- 90%
- B+ 87%
- B 83%
- B- 80%
- C+ 77%
- C 73%
- C- 70%
- D+ 67%
- D 63%
- D- 60%
- F 53%

Readings: (Available at the LCSC Bookstore)

The Color of Justice, Fourth or Fifth Edition (Walker, Spohn & DeLone) Wadsworth, 2007 or 2012

The Invisible Woman: Gender, Crime, and Justice, Third Edition (Belknap) Wadsworth, 2007

Topics and Assignments:

(Due to the nature of academic discussions, the topics listed below will not always correspond to the days' discussions, and we may not be able to cover every topic)

Jan 17-19: Introduction to the Course

Race, Ethnicity and Crime: The Present Crisis

Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 1

Jan 24-26: Victims and Offenders: Myths and Realities about Crime

Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 2

Jan 30: Last day to drop without a W.

Jan 21-Feb 2: Race, Ethnicity, Social Structure and Crime

Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 3

Written Report 1 (Feb 2)

Feb 7-9: Stereotyping by the Media

Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 4

Feb 14-16: The Police, Courts and Minorities

Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 5

Written Report 2 (Feb 16)

Exam Study Questions Distributed

Feb 21-23: Justice on the Bench?: Trial and Adjudication

Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 6

EXAM ONE Feb 23

Feb 28-March 1: Race and Sentencing

Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 7

March 6-8: Race and the Death Penalty

Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 8

March 12-16 Spring Break

March 20-22: Corrections: A Picture in Black & White

Reading: Walker et al, Chapters 9-10

March 27-29: Female Offending - Part I

Reading: Belknap Chapters 1-2

Written Report 3 (March 29)

Study Questions distributed

March 30: Last day to withdraw

April 3-5: Female Offending - Part II
 Reading: Reading: Belknap, Chapters 3-5
EXAM TWO April 5

April 10-12: Female Victims of Male Violence - Part I
 Reading: Belknap, Chapters 6-7

April 17-19: Female Victims of Male Violence - Part II
 Reading: Belknap, Chapter 8
 Written Report 4 (April 19)

April 24-26: Working in the Criminal Justice System Part I
 Reading: Belknap, Chapter 9-10

May 1-3: Effecting Change
 Reading: Belknap, Chapters 11-12
 Exam Study Questions Distributed
 Written Report 5 (May 3)

May 8: FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, 10:30AM-12:20PM
Make your travel plans accordingly. Having plane tickets for travel before the exam is not a valid excuse for missing the scheduled exam.

Referencing for Written Reports:

Reference all paraphrasing and quotes. Use block quotes for quotes longer than 5 sentences. Include a reference page. **You must use the modified APA-style referencing that is used in the journal *Criminology*:** A recent study (Smoe, 1996) reveals knowledge is good. A more specific paraphrase: Joe Smoe (1996:2) found 90 percent of the people believe knowledge is good. A long quote should be indented on both margins and single-spaced:

All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. (Smoe, 1996:3)

Here are some useful referencing sites: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_docsocio.html
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html

When in doubt, it is better to err on the side of over-referencing sources. If you plagiarize, you will receive an "F" for the assignment. If you are having trouble getting started, browse through the readings for topics, look at the sources referenced in the readings, and think about issues that relate to the connections between the various social institutions, such as the economy, family, education, culture, and politics.

FROM PLAGIARISM.ORG:

What is Plagiarism

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to commit literary theft
4. to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying

about it afterward.

But can words and ideas really be stolen?

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property, and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. See our section on [citation](#) for more information on how to cite sources properly.

Syllabus Addendum

Consumer Information

In 2008, the federal government required all post-secondary institutions offering federal financial aid programs to provide key data to both prospective and current students. To comply with this requirement, Lewis-Clark State College has developed a consumer information page, which may be accessed at <http://www.lcsc.edu/studentconsumerinformation/>

Disability Accommodations

Students requiring special accommodations or course adaptations due to a disability and/or a health-related issue should consult their course instructors and the LCSC Student Counseling Center immediately (RCH 111, 792-2211). Official documentation may be required in order to provide an accommodation and/or adaptation.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the responsibility for knowing their program requirements, course requirements, and other information associated with their enrollment at LCSC. Students should review the LCSC General Catalog (<http://www.lcsc.edu/catalog/>) and the LCSC Student Handbook (available at <http://www.lcsc.edu/student-services/contactus.htm>) for more information.

Accidents/Student Insurance

Students participating in LCSC classes normally must look to their personal health insurance policy (Student Health Insurance Plan or comparable private coverage) should an accident occur. In the event of an accident, please seek medical help, if necessary, and report the incident to LCSC Security (792-2226). Fieldtrips or other special student activities may also require students to submit a signed participation waiver (forms can be obtained from the supporting Division Office).

Enrollment Verification/Attendance

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Students who are not actively pursuing their classes may have to repay part or all of their financial aid awards depending upon the circumstances.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating and plagiarism, is not tolerated at LCSC. Individual faculty members will impose their own policies and sanctions regarding academic dishonesty. Students who are accused of being academically dishonest may be referred to the Dean of Student Services for official disciplinary action.

Illegal File Sharing

Students using LCSC's computers and/or computer network must comply with the college's appropriate use policies and are prohibited from illegally downloading or sharing data files of any kind. Specific information about the college's technology policies and its protocols for combating illegal file sharing may be found on the Dean of Student Services' web page (<http://www.lcsc.edu/student-services/>).

Diversity Vision Statement

Regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation, you will be treated and respected as a human being. <http://www.lcsc.edu/culturaldiversity/>