

RACE, CLASS, GENDER AND JUSTICE

Justice Studies/Sociology 422

Fall 2022

Professor:

Gary Reed

Justice Studies Program

Social Science Division

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Website: Canvas

Class Meets:

Monday & Wednesday, 3-415pm

Administration 12

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1:45pm – 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 100 points (4 reports @ 25 points each, plus 1 extra credit)

Exam One 100 points

Exam Two 100 points

Exam Three 100 points

Total: 400 points

Course Grading:

A 400-372
A- 371-360
B+ 359-348
B 347-332
B- 331-320
C+ 319-308
C 307-292
C- 291-280
D 279-240
F 239-0

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%

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 THE DAY OF 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 THE FIRST FOUR (4). YOU MAY SUBMIT REPORT FIVE IF YOU NEED EXTRA CREDIT. An

"A" extra credit report adds four points, a "B" is worth three points, and a "C" is worth two points.

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 through Canvas during class time. 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, or web surfing during class.

Readings: (Available at the LCSC Bookstore and Internet)

The Color of Justice, Sixth Edition (Walker, Spohn & DeLone)

Cengage

ISBN-9781337091862

2018

The Invisible Woman: Gender, Crime, and Justice, 4th Edition

Joanne Belknap, Wadsworth

ISBN-13: 9780495809135

2015

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)

Aug 22-24: Introduction to the Course

Race, Ethnicity and Crime: The Present Crisis

Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 1

Canvas Module 1

Aug 29-31: Victims and Offenders: Myths and Realities about Crime
Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 2
Canvas Module 2

Sept 5: No class/Labor Day

Sept 7: Race, Ethnicity, Social Structure and Crime
Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 3
Written Report 1 (Sept 7)
Canvas Module 3

Sept 12-14: Stereotyping by the Media
Canvas Module 4

Sept 19-21: The Police, Courts and Minorities
Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 4
Written Report 2 (Sept 21)
Exam Study Questions Distributed
Canvas Module 5

Sept 26-28: The Courts and Justice on the Bench?
Reading: Walker et al., Chapters 5-6
EXAM ONE Sept 28
Canvas Module 6

Oct 3-5: Race and Sentencing
Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 7
Canvas Module 7

Oct 10-12: Race and the Death Penalty
Reading: Walker et al., Chapter 8
Canvas Module 8

Oct 17-19: Corrections: A Picture in Black & White
Reading: Walker et al, Chapters 9-11
Canvas Module 9

Oct 24-26: Female Offending - Part I
Reading: Belknap Chapters 1-2
Written Report 3 (Oct 26)
Study Questions distributed
Canvas Module 10

Oct 31-Nov 2: Female Offending - Part II
Reading: Reading: Belknap, Chapters 3-5
EXAM TWO Nov 2

Canvas Module 11

Nov 7-9: Female Victims of Male Violence

Reading: Belknap, Chapters 6-7

Written Report 4 (Nov 9)

Canvas Module 12

Nov 14-16: Female Victims of Male Violence – Part II

Reading: Belknap, Chapter 8

Canvas Module 13

Nov 21-25 Fall Break

Nov 28-30: Working in the Criminal Justice System

Reading: Belknap, Chapters 9-10

Canvas Module 14

Dec 5-7: Effecting Change

Reading: Belknap, Chapters 11-12

Exam Study Questions Distributed

Written Report 5 Extra Credit (Dec 7)

Canvas Module 15

Dec 14: FINAL EXAM: 3

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.