

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER

Department of Sociology

Race, Class, Gender, and Crime

Spring 2014

SOCY/WMST 3044

MWF 11:00-11:50 PM

HELMS 210

Instructor: Nitika Sharma

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Office: Ketchum 409

Office hours: M 12:00 PM -2:00 PM and by appointment

REQUIRED READINGS

Required Books:

Butler, Paul. 2009. *Let's Get Free: A Hip Hop Theory of Justice*. The New Press. ISBN: 9781595585004.

Jones, Nikki. 2009. *Between Good and Ghetto: African American Girls and Inner City Violence*. Rutgers University Press. ISBN: 978-0-8135-4615-5

Kerman, Piper. 2010. *Orange is the New Black*. Spiegel & Grau. ISBN: 038552338

Required Articles:

Articles required will be made available on desire to learn (D2L). It is the students' responsibilities to make sure they can access the assigned readings that are on D2L in a timely manner. I may be adding or replacing a few over the semester, so be sure to follow D2L for updates on this.

COURSE PERSPECTIVE

This course will address how race, class, and gender are the most fundamental divisions, individually and as intersecting variables, in the study of crime and crime control. With the intersection of the variables as the nucleus, the course explores theories used to explain crime and covers topics such as victimization, offending, and policing and law enforcement. The section on offending will offer theories, address types of offending and systemic responses to offending, and offer insight into patterns of constructing crime. The section will also include allegations of offending that may be false. The section on policing and law enforcement will include professions in law, police, and details about working in prisons/jails. The course is designed to give the student a solid understanding of some of the flaws in the current system and the raced, sexed, and classed aspects of processing crime including punishing persons charged with offenses or protecting victims who report crimes.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Please arrive on time for class. Please refrain from having private conversations, engaging in reading material from other courses, partaking in leisure activities, etc. as these do not harbor an environment that is conducive for learning.
2. You must check D2L regularly. In addition to the course site containing all of the Power Point slides and articles for the class, it will also be our communication portal. I will post announcements, relevant news pieces, and any changes to the syllabus or the class schedule on D2L.
3. **The use of laptops during class is prohibited.** If the use of a laptop is an absolute must for note taking purposes, please speak to me privately.
4. Please make sure you have "3044" in the subject line in your e-mails to me.
5. Please do not use cellphones, mp3 players, and other technological gadgets in class. Do remember to turn off your cell phone before coming to class.

6. It is your responsibility to keep up with the readings. You will be quizzed on the readings regularly. Some of the weeks might have more readings than others; some readings might be more complex than others. Make sure you have enough time to get the readings done for a particular week before the start of class on Monday.

7. **Add/Drops**

Class-size limits are set according to departmental guidelines and the fire code, both of which specify the number of students that can be enrolled in each course. Therefore, please do not ask the instructor if you can be added to the course. Use D2L to verify if you have been dropped or added.

NOTE: If you miss the first three days of class, you will be dropped from the course.

GRADING

Your final grade will be based on 300 points, distributed as follows:

Quizzes/Attendance/Participation	100 points
Formal Paper	50 points
Exams 1,2, and 3	210 points
Group Project	<u>40 points</u>
	400 points

In-class Quizzes/Take home Assignments/Attendance and Participation (100 points): You will be asked to do at least 9 in-class quizzes or take-home assignments throughout the course of the semester. None of these assignments can be made up. Only the highest seven grades will be counted for a total of 70 points toward your overall grade at the end of the semester. *If you are late for class or leave early or simply miss class for any reason, you cannot make up the missed assignment.* Most of these will be based on that week's assigned readings. Of the 100 points, 30 points will be for attendance and participation. I will take attendance every day of class and will take note of your participatory contribution in class. I will allow 4 freebies for attendance. If you miss more than four classes for whatever purposes both your attendance and participatory grade will be affected. You don't have to provide formal documents for these absences. However, you cannot "use up" your four days and bring in a doctor's note to document a few more days of absence and allowed to be excused for those days. Please use your freebies wisely.

Formal Paper (50 points): You will be asked to write an academic paper analyzing how your race, class, gender/sexuality have played a role in how you understood the world growing up and how these same variables have influenced how you perceive crime and criminals in today's world. More details will be provided to you at least 3 weeks before the paper is due. It is your duty to bring in a hard copy to class and also upload a copy on D2L. You are expected to do both before the deadline, or you will lose some points. I will upload the guidelines for the paper on D2L in advance.

Crime Project (40 Points): This will be done in teams consisting of 4-5 members. As a team, you will be asked to pick a suitable topic related to crime (an actual crime that took place in the last decade) and analyze how race, class, gender/sexuality as individual and intersecting variables influence, determine the outcome, or are depicted in the topic of your choice. We will discuss the finer details of the project in class and during office hours. As a part of the project, you will turn in a one-page proposal stating what the project will be, a four-page paper about the findings/analysis, and present the project before class.

Exams (70 points each): Four exams will be given during the course of the semester. The fourth exam, which is a comprehensive final, will be optional. I will consider the highest 3 grades if you decide to take the comprehensive final. If a student misses an exam *for any reason*, s/he must take the comprehensive final during the time scheduled for the final exam. A student who misses more than one exam is expected to drop the class. The exams for this course will be equally weighted. Each of the exams will have true-false, short answer and essay questions. I reserve the right not to give exams to persons more than 15 minutes late for an exam, or who have arrived after any students who have completed the exam have left the room. Be sure to arrive on time to the exams.

Final Grade Scale

A: 94-100% A-: 90-93% B+: 87-89% B:84-86% B-:80-83% C+:77-79% C: 73-76%
C-: 70-72% D+: 67-69% D: 64-66% D-: 60-63% F: 59% or less

Relevant Grading Policies

1. Keep copies of all graded course work. In the case of an incorrect or missing grade, it is your responsibility to provide graded work to request a change.
2. No make-up exams will be made available.
3. You must submit all assignments in class (and on D2L when specified).
4. **Cheating**: Any student caught cheating on an exam or paper will fail the course! No exceptions will be made. Cheating includes looking at a reading when an in-class closed-book assignment is being conducted, looking at another student's in-class assignment, plagiarizing and so on. Signing someone else's name or having someone sign your name on the attendance sheet for someone not present counts as cheating, too.
5. **Late Policy for the Paper**: Without prior negotiation with me, late items will be reduced in their grade according to the following schedule. Assignments must be handed in to me in hard copy form and must be uploaded on D2L unless specifically specified otherwise.

Turned in day of, but after class	-5%
1 day late	-10%
2 days late	-20%
3 days late	-30%
4 days late	-40%
5 days late	WILL NOT ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT

COURSE SCHEDULE

Books are listed by author (without a star) and starred items are on D2L.

Week	Topic	Readings Due
Week 1 (Jan 13-17)	Conceptualizing Race, Class, & Gender	Jones Introduction & Chapter 1 Butler Chapter 1 *Anderson 2012 (skim)
Week 2 (Jan 20-24)	Conceptualizing Oppression & Discrimination	Jones Chapter 2 *Ali 2010
Week 3 (Jan27-Jan 31)	Labeling Crimes	Jones Chapter 3 *Cheng 2011 *Linneman et al. 2013
Week 4 (Feb 3-7)	Theories on Causes of Crime	Butler Chapters 2,3 *Belknap & Holsinger 2006
Week 5 (Feb 10-14)	Patterns of and Constructing Crime	Jones Chapter 4 *Huebner, DeJong, Cobbina 2010
*****EXAM #1: February 12th, Wednesday *****		
Week 6 (Feb 17-21)	Laws, Courts, & Politics I	Butler Chapter 4 *Washburn 2006
Week 7 (Feb 24-Feb 28)	Laws, Courts, & Politics II	*Senott and Galligher 2006 *Hartney 2008

Paper: Due Feb 26th, Wednesday

Week 8 (Mar 3-7)	Working in the Criminal Legal System I	Butler Chapter 5 *Dodge & Pogrebin 2001 *Foley et al. 2002
Week 9 (Mar 10-14)	Working in the Criminal Legal System II	*Moran 1990-91 *Golden 2007 *Sun 2007
***** EXAM #2: Mar 12th, Wednesday *****		
Week 10 (Mar 17-21)	Policing & Law Enforcement I	*Archembeault 2003 *Perry 2009
Week 11 (Mar 24-28)	SPRING BREAK	
Week 12 (Mar 31- Apr 4)	Policing & Law Enforcement II	Kerman whole book
Week 13 (Apr 7-11)	Prisons, Punishment, & Treatment I	* Butler Chapters 6,7 *Nagata & Tsuru 2007
Week 14 (Apr 14-18)	Prisons, Punishment, & Treatment II Crime Project Presentations	Butler Chapters 8,9 *Nat'l Prison Proj. ACLU 2007
Week 15 (Apr 21-25)	Crime Project Presentations	*Cave 2011
***** EXAM #3: Apr 23rd, Wednesday *****		
Week 16 (Apr 28-May 2)	Making Changes	Jones book Conclusion (pp.151-62) *Belknap & McDonald 2010

*******EXAM #4: May 6th, Tuesday, 7:30 pm-10:00 pm*******

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Disability Accommodations: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: [303-492-8671](tel:303-492-8671), Center for Community N200, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>

Religious Observances: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. *In this class, it is important that if the date of an exam is during a religious holiday you observe that you let me know immediately at the beginning of the semester so that we can decide what to do. In fact, it is helpful if you let me know in writing, by email, at the beginning of the semester any days you will miss due to religious observances. Also, at the end of the semester I will drop three of the in-class/homework assignments. Classes missed for any reason will be dropped. Remember that if you need to miss for religious holidays that those "count" as any of the three missed, just like ones missed due to a flat tire, an illness, and so on will also "count." More specifically, you don't get 3 missed and then additional day(s) for religious observance.* See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Learning Environment and Salutations: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender

variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships policy apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at [303-492-2127](tel:303-492-2127) or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at [303-492-5550](tel:303-492-5550). Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Academic Integrity: All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; [303-735-2273](tel:303-735-2273)). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Student-Athletes: It is the student's responsibility to notify each instructor—in the first week of the semester and in writing--about any known conflicts between academic requirements and intercollegiate varsity athletic events. For conflicts that arise during the regular term, instructors have full authority to decide whether and/or how to accommodate those conflicts. While an instructor has the right to refuse to allow make-ups or other accommodations, he or she is permitted to provide such accommodations. Intercollegiate varsity athletics events during final exams, which are normally forbidden by university policy, must be approved in writing by the BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee well in advance of the event. Students involved in these events must then work with their instructors in regard to any missed work, as required above.

Club Sports: It is the student's responsibility to notify each instructor—in the first several weeks of the semester and in writing--about any known conflicts between academic requirements and sport club events. For conflicts that arise during the regular term, instructors have full authority to decide whether and/or how to accommodate those conflicts. While an instructor has the right to refuse to allow make-ups or other accommodations, he or she is permitted to provide such accommodations.