



Race, Crime and Criminal Justice

CCJS 370
Spring 2018

Learning Outcomes

The aim of this course is to examine the intersection between race and crime in the American criminal justice system. In order to achieve this goal, we must first determine what race means to us now and what it has meant to us in the past. By answering this initial race question, we will evaluate the historical, social and political evolution of this term.

Once we create some guidelines as to who belongs in what racial category, we must then consider: “Why does race matter?” Who decides how much race matters? As we study these questions and many other current and past issues, the class will consider how the system views and deals with Asians, Arabs, Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, and Whites. An analysis of the development of criminological theory, its practical implications, as well as the future of race and crime research will be explored.

After successfully completing this course you will be able to:

- Demonstrate the understanding of the development of different races from a biological, social and ideological perspective.
- Compare and contrast fundamental concepts like assimilation and acculturation.
- Explicate the processes which create or fail to create a colorblind criminal justice system.
- Articulate how particular policies like racial profiling create or inhibit the formation and functioning of America as a plural society.

Required Resources

Student website: <https://study.sagepub.com/node/29060/student-resources/chapter-1/web-resources>

[Race and Crime](#), fourth edition. Shaun L. Gabbidon and Helen Taylor Greene. Sage. 2019. ISBN: 9781544334233



Prof. White

Ccjs370@gmail.com

Class Meets

Wednesdays
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm
HBK 0115

Office Hours

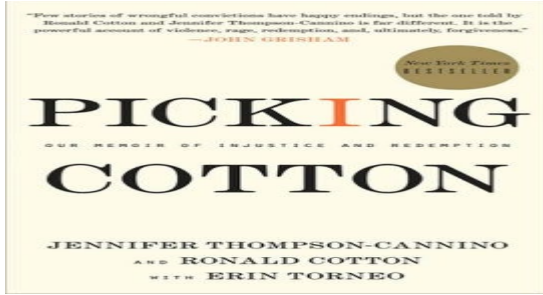
2215 LeFrak Hall
Wednesdays
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Fridays
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
and by appointment

Prerequisites

CCJS 100

Course Communication

We will use ELMS in this course for posting grades, class announcements and class discussions. www.elms.edu After assignments are due and exams are given, grades will be posted on ELMS in a reasonable period of time. Please contact me via the email address listed at the top of this page. **Do not send emails via ELMS.** Please consult this link for helpful guidance on writing professional emails (ter.ps@email).



PICKING COTTON. Jennifer

Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton. St. Martin's Griffin. 2009.
ISBN: 978-0-312-37653-6.

Campus Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

Activities, Learning Assessments, & Expectations for Students

STATEMENT ON CLASSROOM CLIMATE

The success of this class is dependent not only on my abilities and talents as an instructor to communicate information and ideas, but also on our ability as a class to work together to create an environment conducive to active learning. As a department and university, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students of opportunities to learn. The University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as "behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class." Examples include coming late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, excessive talking, persisting in speaking without being recognized, allowing cell phones to ring, talking on a cell phone, reading text messages, sending text messages, or using a cell phone or any other electronic device. None of this behavior will be tolerated.

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants or with me will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Regular and consistent attendance in this class is expected from registered students. University policy excuses the absences of students for illness, religious observances, participation in University activities at the request of University authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond the student's control. Students must submit the request in writing and supply appropriate documentation.

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent for a Major Student Grading event, due to illness/injury, to furnish documentary support to the instructor. I require students to contact me by email or by phone prior to class time in which you indicate that you have an illness or an injury. You must provide written documentation of the illness from the Health Center or an outside health care provider verifying the dates of treatment and the time period during which the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. This documentation must be provided immediately upon your return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests or papers if you have not provided this documentation. Documentation not presented to me in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University's Student Conduct Office.

If a student has missed a single lecture, Campus Senate policy allows that I accept as an excused absence a self-signed note from the student. The note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under Code of Student Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness in advance. A self-signed note will not apply to missing a major Scheduled Grading Event.

Professionalism

Since we are in a professional setting, all interactions with the Professor and the Teaching Assistant(s) must be in a professional manner. For example, all emails must be addressed appropriately, include your name and the reason for your correspondence. Remember that an email is a more formal communication than a text or a tweet.

Additionally, correspondence about the course with the teaching assistant(s) must only be through the class email. Do not contact the teaching assistant via any other forum unless specifically requested by the teaching assistant.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Reading Assignments: Each student is responsible for reading assignments as outlined below and being fully prepared to participate in classroom discussions. Students will be selected at random to answer questions and participate in classroom discussion.
2. Participation: I expect students to ask questions, participate in discussion and be active listeners. We will work in groups during many class sessions, and I expect each student to contribute as required.
3. Homework Assignments: Assignments are due as noted in the Course Outline section of the syllabus. The requirements of each assignment will be outlined in class.
 - a. Race Awareness: Write a 250-500 word paper identifying when you first became aware of your race. This is a personal reflection exercise designed to initiate the race discussion.
 - b. Internet Exercises: Weekly assignments answering questions associated with various websites. These assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class for peer grading. We will discuss these assignments in class, grade them together and then I will post the final grade for the assignment (up to 5 points) on ELMS after class.
4. Picking Cotton Assignment (Midterm): Students will write a paper focusing on the themes of the course as it integrates with themes presented by the authors. Further details of the assignment will be posted on ELMS and discussed in class. This paper will serve as the midterm exam.
5. Group Project: Each group will select a topic related to race and crime. I will organize the class into groups and inform each student of their group members. Group project policies and specifics on the assignment will be provided in a separate document.
6. The Space Traders (Final): After reading Derrick Bell's essay, "The Space Traders" (I will provide a copy of the essay in class) write a response to Professor Bell addressing questions that will be provided in a separate document. This paper will serve as the final exam.

Course-Specific Policies

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

No computers, phones or tablet devices are permitted during our class meetings. I understand and have considered arguments for permitting laptop and tablet computers in the classroom. However, in my experience (and based on the research evidence) the reality is that they present an irresistible distraction and detract from the cooperative learning environment. Researchers have found that these distractions do in fact interfere with learning and active participation. For that reason, the use of computers and phones will not be permitted during class meetings (except when required for DSS accommodations). If a computer is needed to accomplish a class objective for the day I will provide it or give you advanced notice to bring one with you.

I expect you to make the responsible and respectful decision to refrain from using your cellphone in class. If you have critical communication to attend to, please excuse yourself and return when you are ready. For more information about the science behind the policy watch: <http://youtu.be/WwPaw3Fx5Hk>

If these devices are seen and/or used during class, the student(s) will be asked to leave the class immediately. If these devices are seen and/or used during an exam, the exam will be collected from the student and the student will no longer be allowed to continue taking the exam. The exam score will be noted as 0.

Exception: Students will be allowed to use electronic devices (like tablets) to access the e-version of the textbook. However, if at any time the professor learns that students are using the device for other reasons, the students will no longer be permitted to access this device for the remainder of the semester.

LATE SUBMISSIONS

This class begins at 2:00 pm and ends at 4:30 pm on Wednesdays. When papers are due in class, students are to be present to turn in their assignments at the class start time unless the papers are to be submitted via ELMS. **Once I begin teaching class, I will not accept any papers now will any papers be accepted via ELMS.**

If an excused absence, with legitimate documentation, supports a late submission, the student must contact Prof. White immediately (as soon as it is clear that the assignment will be late) to discuss an extension.

Turnitin

For this course, some of your assignments will be collected via Turnitin on our course ELMS page. I have chosen to use this tool because it can help you improve your scholarly writing and help me verify the integrity of student work. For information about Turnitin, how it works, and the feedback reports you may have access to, visit [Turnitin Originality Checker for Students](#)

ATHLETES

Any student participating in a school sponsored athletic program must provide a copy of their athletic calendar outlining dates when they will miss classes to the instructor by **February 8, 2019**.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

While the University does excuse absences for religious observances, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance and prior notification is especially important in connection with final examinations, since failure to reschedule a final examination before the conclusion of the final examination period may result in loss of credits during the semester. Therefore, by **February 8, 2019** students must provide me in writing a request for a make-up exam if I have indicated a date on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance on a specific date. Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance. *Please remember that accommodations are NOT made for travel to and from the religious observance.*

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form, which has been updated for the Spring 2019 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than **February 8, 2019**. **I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation which has been reviewed by DSS after February 8, 2019.**

Get Some Help!

You are expected to take personal responsibility for your own learning. This includes acknowledging when your performance does not match your goals and doing something about it. Everyone can benefit from some expert guidance on time management, note taking, and exam preparation, so I encourage you to consider visiting <http://ter.ps/learn> and schedule an appointment with an academic coach. Sharpen your communication skills (and improve your grade) by visiting <http://ter.ps/writing> and schedule an appointment with the campus Writing Center. Finally, if you just need someone to talk to, visit <http://www.counseling.umd.edu>.



Everything is free because you have already paid for it, and **everyone needs help**... all you have to do is ask for it.

Grades

Grades are not given, but earned. Your grade is determined by your performance on the learning assessments in the course and is assigned individually (not curved). If earning a particular grade is important to you, please speak with me at the beginning of the semester so that I can offer some helpful suggestions for achieving your goal.

All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page. If you would like to review any of your grades (including the exams), or have questions about how something was scored, please email me to schedule a time for us to meet in my office.

Late work will not be accepted for course credit so please plan to have it submitted well before the scheduled deadline. I am happy to discuss any of your grades with you, and if I have made a mistake I will immediately correct it. Any formal grade disputes must be submitted in writing and within one week of receiving the grade.

Class Participation	=	10%
Picking Cotton (Midterm)	=	25%
Homework Assignments	=	20%
Group Project	=	20%
Space Traders (Final)	=	25%

Final letter grades are assigned based on the percentage of total assessment points earned. To be fair to everyone I have to establish clear standards and apply them consistently, so please understand that being close to a cutoff is not the same this as making the cut ($89.99 \neq 90.00$). It would be unethical to make exceptions for some and not others.

Final Grade Cutoffs							
+	97.00%	+	87.00%	+	77.00%	+	67.00%
A	94.00%	B	84.00%	C	74.00%	D	64.00%
F	<60.0%						
-	90.00%	-	80.00%	-	70.00%	-	60.00%

Course Schedule

Note: This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course ELMS page for current deadlines. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.

Week 1

1/30

Introduction and Overview of the Course

Week 2

2/6

Chapter 1

Overview of Race and Crime

Race Awareness Paper Due

Internet Exercise Chapter 1 Due

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf>

Week 3

2/13

Chapter 2

Extent of Crime and Victimization

Movie: *What's Race Got To Do With It?*

Internet Exercise Chapter 2 Due

Week 4

2/20

Chapter 3

Theoretical Perspectives on Race and Crime

Internet Exercise Chapter 3 Due

Movie: *Vincent Who?*

Week 5

2/27

Chapter 4
Policing

Internet Exercise Chapter 4 Due

Videos: *Rodney King Incident*

Police Press Conferences

Week 6

3/6

Chapter 4
Policing

Police Citizen Review Boards

Week 7

3/13

Chapter 5
Courts

Internet Exercise Chapter 5 Due

Group Project Discussion

Picking Cotton Assignment Due

Week 8

3/20

SPRING BREAK

Week 9

3/27

Chapter 6
Sentencing

Internet Exercise Chapter 6 Due

Group Project Meetings (TA office)

Week 10

4/3

Chapter 7
The Death Penalty

Internet Exercise Chapter 7 Due

Group Project Meetings

Week 11

4/10

Chapter 8
Corrections

Internet Exercise Chapter 8 Due

Group Presentations

Week 12

4/17

Chapter 9
Juvenile Justice

Internet Exercise Chapter 9 Due

Group Presentations

Group Memo Due

Week 13

4/24

Group Presentations

Week 14
5/1

Group Presentations

Week 15
5/8

Space Traders Discussion