Course Number: CCJS 370  
Term: Spring 2018  
SECTION SG91  
Meeting Place and Time: Building III Room 3206 Monday, 2:00pm-4:30pm  
Instructor: Dr. Tom Alexander  
Office hours: By appointment  
Email: talexand@umd.edu  
Phone: 301-574-0742 (cell)  

Course Description  
An examination of race in the context of the criminal justice system. Emphasis is on the treatment of racial minorities as victims and offenders by law enforcement, courts, and corrections.  

Course Prerequisites  
CCJS100; or students who have taken courses with comparable content may contact the department.  

Sending Email  
Please use the subject line “CCJS370” whenever you send an email, which will increase the probability of us not considering it junk mail. The professor will mainly rely on email in order to communicate with students. The professor prefers communications be send via Outlook rather than through ELMS. Please check your email regularly.  

Student Learning Outcomes  
By the end of this course, students should be able to:  
• Understand how race and ethnicity are central to crime and criminal justice  
• Know the difference between race and ethnicity  
• Understand the different theoretical explanations for the racial and ethnic gap in offending and victimization
• Understand the nature and extent of inequality in American society with respect to racial and ethnic minorities
• Explain the most important issues related to police and people of color
• Explain how race and ethnicity continue to be taken into consideration during the jury selection process
• Understand that there are significant racial differences in attitudes toward capital punishment
• Have a good picture of who is in prison and the racial and ethnic composition of the prison population

**Required Reading**


**Course Requirements**

There are multiple requirements for this course. As noted above there are various other assignments and there will also be two exams, each covering a specified portion of material. **Exams and all assignments are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them.** The information for the exams comes from lecture as well as from the text book. Extra credit may come in the form of unannounced, open notes quizzes. If these quizzes are offered, the fact they are extra credit means that there will be no make-ups for them. Students are required to participate in group and class discussion and students are expected to attend class, complete the weekly readings before class, and ask questions.

**ELMS/CANVAS**

I will be using CANVAS to post the syllabus, grades, and some handouts. Go to http://www.elms.umd.edu/ and log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password to use this feature.

**Statement of Classroom Climate**

The success of this class is dependent not only on my abilities as an instructor to communicate information and ideas, but also on our ability as a class to work together to create an environment that is conducive to active learning. The Department, as well as the University, expects 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 and receiving and sending text messages. 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.

**Code of Conduct**

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

**Use of Technology**

In this class, students will not be allowed to use their personal computers to take class notes. Students will also be prohibited from using their mp3 players, cell phones, tablets or any other type of technology during class. 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 a zero.

**Assessment and Grading**

There will be two scheduled exams given on the weeks listed below. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade. These exams will include multiple choice, true-false, short essay, and matching questions.

It is expected and encouraged that students speak up in class discussions and participate in group assignments. Class participation also includes attendance and is worth 10% of your grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several Written Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- 93-100% A
- 90-92% A-
- 87-89% B+
- 83-86% B
- 80-82% B-
- 77-79% C+
- 73-76% C
Class Schedule

Topics for each week are listed below. However, circumstances may call for a departure from this schedule. Any changes to the schedule will be made in advance.

Please note that the lectures will often include material not present in the textbook. This extra material could be introduced in any of the tests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1 Jan 29 | Introduction and overview to the course  
*Syllabus review*  
Topic 1:  
*Introduction- Race, Ethnicity, and Crime* | Chapter 1 |
| 2 Feb 5 | Topic 1:  
*Finish up Chapter 1* | Chapter 1 |
| 3 Feb 12 | Topic 2:  
*Victims and Offenders* | Chapter 2 |
| 4 Feb 19 | Topic 3:  
*Race, Ethnicity, Social Structure, and Crime* | Chapter 3  
SPACE TRADERS assignment is due |
| 5 Feb 26 | Topic 4:  
The Police and Race | Chapters 4 |
| 6 Mar 5 | Topic 4:  
*More on the Police and Race* | Chapter 4  
Discussion Question 1 is due. |
| 7 Mar 12 | MID-TERM EXAM | Class Preparation:  
Read over Chapters 1 through 4 |
| 8 Mar 19 | Topic 5:  
*The Courts: Justice During Pre-Trial Process* | Chapter 5 |
| 9 Mar 26 | Topic 6  
*Trial and Adjudication in Criminal Court* | Chapters 6  
Discussion Question 2 is due. |
| 10 Apr 2 | Topic 7  
*Race and Sentencing* | Chapter 7 |
| 11 Apr 9 | Topic 8  
*Death Penalty* | Chapter 8 |
| 12 Apr 16 | Topic 9  
*Race and Corrections* | Chapter 9 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Apr 23</td>
<td>Topic 10 *Minority Youth and the Criminal Justice System</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Topic Paper is due.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Apr 30</td>
<td>Topic 11 *The Color of Justice;</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 May 7</td>
<td>Catch up and Review for Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Course Notes and Instructions**

**Office Hours.** In addition to the posted times, office hours can be arranged by appointment either in person, by email, or over the phone. Students may also drop by my office unannounced, but I cannot always guarantee my availability.

**Academic Integrity.** The university has clearly articulated its policies governing academic integrity and students are encouraged to carefully review the policy on the Honor Code. Any deviation from these expectations will result in academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. The area of greatest potential risk for inadvertent academic dishonesty is plagiarism. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, paraphrasing or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement.

**Attendance Policy.** Students are obligated to complete all assigned reading and work promptly, to attend class regularly, and to participate in whatever class discussion may occur. Absence from more than one class, whether excused or unexcused, is excessive and may warrant a grade penalty.

**Classroom Policies.** Students are asked to turn off all nonessential electronic devices prior to entering the classroom. Students should refrain from having private conversations during class. Lastly, kindly do not leave trash or other discarded materials behind in the classroom.
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, contact the Office of Student Disability. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Student Disability Services.

Diversity. In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different than ourselves. In this time we share together over the semester, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from one another.

Syllabus Amendment. The syllabus serves as a guide. I reserve the right to amend or modify the syllabus to meet the pedagogic needs of the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Dates:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancel Registration</td>
<td>January 23, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change from Full-time to Part-time</td>
<td>January 23, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add a Course</td>
<td>February 6, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply for Graduation</td>
<td>February 6, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change Credit Level</td>
<td>February 6, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change Grading Option</td>
<td>February 6, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop a Course without “W” Withdrawal</td>
<td>February 6, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop a Course with “W” (See Drop Policy)</td>
<td>April 11, 2018</td>
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Spring Semester 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Day of Classes</th>
<th>January 24 (Wednesday)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>March 18-25 (Sunday-Sunday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Holiday (Passover)</td>
<td>March 30-April 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
<td>May 10 (Thursday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Day</td>
<td>May 11 (Friday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>May 12-18 (Saturday-Friday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement - College/Department Ceremonies</td>
<td>May 19 (Saturday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement- Main Ceremony and College/Department Ceremonies</td>
<td>May 20 (Sunday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement- College /Department Ceremonies</td>
<td>May 21 (Monday)</td>
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</tbody>
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