

Missouri State University
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
CRM 415: Race, Class, Gender, and Crime
Spring 2018

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Office Hours: Tuesday (8:15-9:30a.m. and 10:45a.m.-12:30p.m.)
Thursday (8:15-9:30a.m. and 10:45-11:30)

We can also arrange a phone meeting if necessary for those who are not on campus.

Course Description

Students will examine how identities, such as race, class, and gender, impact criminal offending, victimization, and professionalism in the criminal justice system. Students will be encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of cultural competency and will conduct academic research in an effort to develop an understanding of the social and criminal justice related factors that create challenges to achieving cultural diversity and the ethical treatment of diverse groups. Students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of how identities influence one's experience within the criminal justice system.

This course is taught entirely online. Students are required to complete readings, view online documentaries and search/review websites. Students will be graded based on their performance in discussions, assignments, papers, and exams.

Course Objectives

Students are expected to be able to demonstrate the following by the end of the course:

- Understand the social construction of identities.
- Identify issues related to diversity within the criminal justice system.
- Understand factors associated with differences in offending and victimization patterns among identity groups.
- Develop an understanding of the effects between the intersections of identity groups.
- Identify how identities influence criminal justice policies and outcomes, particularly in regard to police, courts, and corrections.
- Become familiar with the policy suggestions to remedy discrimination within the criminal justice system.

Communication: My goal is to get back in touch with you within 24-48 hours during the week (M-F) if you email/contact me. If you email me with an important question or problem, you need to be sure and check your email as well in a timely manner to receive my response. It is also imperative that you regularly log-in (several times a week) to view announcements and to read all class emails that are sent to you regarding the course. Any important announcements and/or course updates will be posted through announcements.

Also, please keep in mind that I will not be providing you with reminders of when items are due. It is your responsibility to keep up with the course and be familiar with all due dates.

Communication Etiquette

During this course we will cover some controversial issues and topics. I am, therefore, establishing some guidelines:

1. Withholding: Do not feel obligated to reveal your own experiences. Reveal only what is comfortable for you.
2. Respect: We should respect each other even if we disagree with one another. This is accomplished by being open to another's view point and using appropriate language that is not offensive.
3. Disagreements should be handled through constructive dialogue.

Instructed Materials (required)

1. "Multiculturalism, Crime, and Criminal Justice." Robert McNamara and Ronald Burns. 2018: Oxford University Press.

2. There will be several additional readings that need to be read as assigned. This will include articles organized in Blackboard, journal searches/readings and internet readings.

Blackboard: There is a Blackboard help desk (836-5891). This is who you need to contact when you are having technical difficulties. If you are having a technical difficulty that prohibits you from finishing an assignment, you need to contact the help desk to resolve the issue and let me know as well. From my past experience, the major challenge is students getting kicked out of exams. When this happens, please let me know ASAP and contact the help desk. I cannot open the test back up to you until you have first contacted the help desk. The help desk does recommend that students use **Firefox** as their browser when logged in to Blackboard. The following website is a great tool to help students understand all of the Blackboard tools and how to complete and access your work: <https://experts.missouristate.edu/>

Please also be aware that I can track and see what you have done in Blackboard. This includes when and for how long you were logged in. I have had (a few) students in the past attempt to claim that they completed work/exam and then claim technical difficulties. Please do not attempt to do this, since I can view a log of when you were logged into the course. Like I said, if there is a problem, let me know so we can work it out.

Course Procedures, Requirements, and Policies:

Posting Units and Assignments-

All course material including required reading, additional material (including readings and videos), and all assignments and quizzes are posted under the "Weekly Content/Units" in Blackboard. Units are posted at least one week in advance of the first assignment due date within the unit. Reading assignments from text chapters and additional readings are required. Reading material is reflected in a significant amount of quiz questions. From my experience, students putting effort into assigned readings typically do much better on examinations. ***Be sure to carefully read the due dates for course requirements (discussions, journals, quizzes, etc.). Typically, all work is due on Friday at 11pm in the week it is assigned. A "typical" week will include reading a chapter from the text, completing a chapter quiz, reading an additional article and/or viewing a film and completing a discussion OR journal assignment.***

Discussion Assignments

This course involves online discussion assignments. You are asked to respond to a specific issue or discussion question involving and applying material from a particular course unit. The questions will be posted in each course unit. You are to post an initial response to the issue/question and respond to at least two of your classmate's postings by 11:00 p.m. on the Friday in the week the assignment is given. Scores on these assignments will be based on the quality of your contributions to these forum discussions. Of course, you may respond to more than two classmates and you also are encouraged to reply to those responding to your comments. ***Each forum assignment is worth a possible 15 points.*** Ten points are allocated for your initial response and 5 points for the response to other students. **Late discussions will be accepted up to two days late with point reductions.**

Discussions are graded based on quality of material. To receive full credit for the initial discussion, students are expected to demonstrate their understanding of the material and the issue based on the readings. Students must provide a detailed answer. Points for the responses to other students are based on students going beyond simply agreeing or disagreeing. Again, provide thoughtful detail.

Each discussion board is worth up to 15 points. To earn the full 15 points:

- Respond to the initial discussion question by the due date and time
- Be respectful of all other classmates and the Instructor in his / her postings
- Use grammatically correct statements in complete sentences
- Discussions are not solely opinion based, students need to demonstrate a clear understanding of the material
- Students must answer the question(s) in detail. Many times a discussion requires a two-part answer. At a MINIMUM, a lengthy paragraph is required for each question posed in the discussion.
- Respond to the opening question a minimum of 1 (one) time by the due date and time
- Respond to a minimum of 2 students by the due date and time

Journals

Each student will complete online journal entries. The Journal tool is where students will write short reflection papers, assignments based on questions from readings, viewing films, etc. The due date and instructions for the Journal entries are listed within the course units. Journal entries will be completed in two formats: either answering a series of specific questions or writing a short paper. Journals are due by 11p.m. on the due date.

Each journal entry is worth up to 15 points. To earn the full 15 points:

- Complete all components of the assignment by the due date and time
- Answer all questions fully and in your own words (this is not a cut and paste or long quotes from the book or other sources)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the reading/class material
- Complete sentences with proper grammar and spelling

- Journals that require paper format need to be 10-12 font, double-spaced and contain complete paragraphs. The assignment must also meet the required minimum length.
- Journals that require answering a series of questions must also contain complete sentences. While these are not papers, students must fully answer each question- a lengthy paragraph at a minimum!!

Weekly/Chapter Quizzes

On most weeks students will complete a short quiz. The quizzes are based on the material for the week. All quizzes are due Friday at 11pm in the week they are assigned. The quizzes may consist of T/F, multiple choice, and short answer or essay questions. Quizzes are worth ??? points each. Students need to make every effort to complete quizzes by the due date. Make-up quizzes will only be allowed for legitimate reasons. I reserve the right to give alternative quizzes, including essay only, and to deduct points for taking a quiz late.

Research Paper

Each student will complete a research paper. Students will identify an area of interest in regard to cultural diversity in the criminal justice system and examine the impact on an identity group. More instructions will be given regarding the research paper. The project is worth 60 points.

Academic Honesty All work submitted in this course must be completed and submitted only by the student. Students are not permitted to complete assignments together. All work in this course must also be original to this course- you may not submit work that has been or will be submitted in another course. Any violation of this will result in 0 points for the assignment and MSU's academic policy will be implemented.

Final Course Grade Calculation-

12-15 Assignments (Journals and Discussions, 15 points each): 180-225 Points

13 Chapter quizzes (20 points each): 260 points

Paper: 60 points

Total Points: 500

And based on the following scale (there are no plus/minus grades given)

90% - 100%...A 80% - 89%.....B 70% - 79%.....C 60% - 69%.....D

00% - 59%.....F

Attendance Policy

Given that this is an online course, attendance is not taken. However, it is imperative that students regularly log into the course and remain active in the course. The course has firm deadlines for all assigned material and requires active student participation.

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice on Facebook

The Department has a Facebook site where we frequently highlight student and faculty accomplishments, as well as provide updates on criminal justice job opportunities and other exciting events happening in the field. You can find our Facebook site at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Criminology-at-Missouri-State-University-135913129764383/>

Accelerated Master's Program

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice offers an accelerated Master's program for qualified undergraduate criminology majors. Through this option, you may take up to 12 hours of graduate coursework which simultaneously count as both Bachelor's and Master's credit. By pursuing the accelerated Master's, it is possible for a student to graduate with both his or her Bachelor's Degree and a Master's level certificate in Homeland Security or Community Corrections in a 4-year period. Learn more about our accelerated program at

<http://criminology.missouristate.edu/master/accelerated.htm> or contact Dr. Patti Salinas, the Graduate Program Director, at PattiSalinas@MissouriState.edu.

MSU Policies

Academic Dishonesty

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the University's academic integrity policy plus additional more-specific policies for each class. The University policy, formally known as the "Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures" is available online at

http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3_01_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm and also at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

Non-discrimination

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, 417-836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Please visit the OED website at

www.missouristate.edu/equity/.

Disability Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability and anticipate barriers related to this course, it is important to request accommodations and establish an accommodation plan with the University. Please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (www.missouristate.edu/disability), Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192, to initiate the process to establish your accommodation plan. The DRC will work with you to establish your accommodation plan, or it may refer you to other appropriate resources based on the nature of your disability. In order to prepare an accommodation plan, the University usually requires that students provide documentation relating to their disability. Please be prepared to provide such documentation if requested. Once a University accommodation plan is established, you may notify the class instructor of approved accommodations. If you wish to utilize your accommodation plan, it is suggested that you do so

in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Early notification to the instructor allows for full benefit of the accommodations identified in the plan. Instructors will not receive the accommodation plan until you provide that plan, and are not required to apply accommodations retroactively.

Cell Phone

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Emergency Response

At the first class meeting, students should become familiar with a basic emergency response plan through a dialogue with the instructor that includes a review and awareness of exits specific to the classroom and the location of evacuation centers for the building. All instructors are provided this information specific to their classroom and/or lab assignments in an e-mail prior to the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost and Safety and Transportation. Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional options when applicable with the instructor. For more information go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.

Dropping a class

is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar at 836-5520.

Audio and video recording course activity

Students who wish to record lectures or class activities for study purposes should inform the faculty member first. Distribution or sale of recordings or other course materials is prohibited without the written permission of the instructor and other students who are recorded. Distribution without permission is a violation of copyright law and the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (Sections 4.6, 4.8, 4.9).

Religious accommodation

The University may provide a reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. In making this determination, the University reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship. The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the

accommodation and the University. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their sincerely held religious belief shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a *Request for Religious Accommodation Form* to the instructor by the end of the third week of a full semester course or the end of the second week of a half semester course.

Mental Health and Stress Management

As a student you may experience a range of personal issues that can impede learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. You can learn more about free and confidential Missouri State University Counseling Center services available to assist you at <https://counselingcenter.missouristate.edu/>.

Title IX Policy

Missouri State University has a Title IX policy that guides our response to instances of sexual violence. Sexual Violence includes: Rape, Sexual Assault, Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Discrimination, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, Sexual Harassment and Pregnancy issues. The Title IX policy can be located on the MSU Title IX website at www.missouristate.edu/titleix/. This website is also a good resource for any questions or issues involving Title IX and contains contact information for the MSU Title IX Office and staff.

If an MSU student discloses a Title IX related issue to a MSU faculty or staff member who is deemed to be a “Responsible Employee” under the policy, that faculty or staff member is required to report such disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator. A responsible employee includes any employee who has the authority to take action to redress sexual violence; who has been given the duty of reporting incidents of sexual violence or any other misconduct by students to the Title IX Coordinator or other appropriate school designee; or whom a student could reasonably believe has the authority or duty to take action. Taylor Health employees and MSU Counseling Center Clinicians are not considered to be Responsible Employees under the policy, and therefore, are not required to report Title IX issues to the Title IX Coordinator.

Chosen Name Policy

A student may choose a name other than their legal name to identify themselves at Missouri State University. A chosen name is different than the student’s legal name. Refer to the [Chosen Name policy](#) for more information. Students can provide their chosen first and middle names in the *Profile* tab of [My Missouri State](#).