

**CRM 415-001 Race, Class, Gender, and Crime  
Spring 2018**

**Instructor:** Caryn Saxon

**Office:** Strong Hall 234

**Office Phone:** (417) 836-5898

**Email:** CSaxon@MissouriState.edu

**Fax:** (417) 836-3200

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-5:00 p.m. Also by appointment.

**Welcome** to our course! This syllabus will provide you with important information concerning our course, university & classroom policies, required materials, my expectations of you, and what you can expect from me. Please take the time to read our syllabus thoroughly and let me know if you have any questions.

**Course Description:** Exploring both historical and current events, students will examine how identities, such as race, class, and gender, impact criminal offending, victimization, and professionalism in the U.S. 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.

**Course Texts:** We do not have a required textbook in this course. Instead, I will be providing readings for you in PDF form throughout the semester. However, you will each need to purchase and read one book this term, which you will choose from the four options listed below. During the first week of our course, I will ask you to rank these four book options and I will use your preferences to place you into one of four bookclubs. Once you are placed in a group you will need to purchase that book before February 18, 2018.

Delery, C. (2017). *Out for queer blood: The murder of fernancco rios and the failure of new Orleans justice*. Jefferson, NC: Exposit.

McKim, A. (2017). *Addicted to rehab: Race, gender, and drugs in the era of mass incarceration*. Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Pager, D. (2007). *Marked: Race, crime, and finding work in an era of mass incarceration*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

Rios, V.M. (2011). *Punished: Policing the lives of black and latino boys*. New York, NY: New York University Press.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Below are my projected learning outcomes for you as a student in this course.

The Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice is committed to six core learning outcomes for its students which you can read at:

[http://criminology.missouristate.edu/undergraduate/Learning\\_Outcomes.htm](http://criminology.missouristate.edu/undergraduate/Learning_Outcomes.htm)

As follows, this course addresses all six of those learning outcomes:

- *SLO1: Students will demonstrate academic proficiency in the core criminal justice areas (law enforcement, law, and corrections).* This outcome will be assessed through quizzes, discussion, and exams.
- *SLO2: Students will be able to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, using appropriate references and technologies.* Our class includes several writing assignments and oral discussions that will give you a chance to practice and develop these skills.
- *SLO3: Students will be able to assess the basic quality of research in criminology and criminal justice publications and other media.* This outcome will be assessed through the impact and action paper.
- *SLO4: Students will be able to evaluate ethical issues related to the criminal justice system and criminology.* Assignments such as assigned reading/discussion and the impact and action paper will assess this learning outcome.
- *SLO5: Students will identify issues of diversity and human rights in relation to the workings of the criminal justice system and criminology.* This learning outcome will be assessed throughout our course in all of our assignments.
- *SLO6: Students will employ critical thinking skills when evaluating issues in criminology and criminal justice.* This learning outcome will be assessed through the impact and action paper, as well as assigned reading and discussion.

**Classroom & University Policies:** Below are important classroom and University policies. Please read carefully.

### **Late Work**

Late work is not accepted in this class unless a specific hardship or emergency warrants an exception. Should an emergency occur that will impact your ability to submit an assignment on time, please let me know right away. If I deem that the situation warrants an extension, accommodations will be made. Please note that it is important to me as an instructor that all of my students are given equal opportunities. Extensions will not be given without careful consideration and appropriate verification.

### **Final Grades**

It is important to me that all of my students are treated equally, fairly, and given the same opportunities to earn points and achieve the grade that reflects their ability and effort. I therefore do not adjust final grades by curving, rounding up or down, or offering certain students extra credit opportunities that are not offered to all students. Once your final grade is accurately calculated, it is final and will not be adjusted or changed. Appeals and requests due to hardship need to be communicated to me at the time of the disabling or distracting event, not after your final grade has been calculated.

### **Communication**

It is important to me that I have good communication with my students. Besides talking to me in person, email is the most efficient way to reach me. I work hard to respond to student emails within 48 business hours. If you do not hear back from me within two business days, please follow up with me. Please do not expect me to email you back on a weekend. Sometimes I will do this, but it is not something you should rely on.

### **Academic Integrity**

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](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. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty (as defined by the university) will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy. Please note that any person plagiarizing will receive a "0" for the assignment and risks the possibility of an "F" or "XF" for the course. This means that you must turn in original work created by you specifically for this course, as well as use quotation marks when appropriate and cite authors that you paraphrase or quote in your papers, assignments, and in our online discussion forums. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty you need to ask me (your instructor) and/or refer to the University's policy. Please note that all of your written assignments will be run through Safe Assign in order to check for incidents of plagiarism and duplicate submission.

### **Statement of Nondiscrimination**

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/](http://www.missouristate.edu/equity/). It is personally important to me that we create a learning environment together where no student experiences discrimination due to sex, age, sexual and/or gender identity, race or ethnicity, religious affiliation, political affiliation, or economic status. Please work with me in cultivating and maintaining such an environment, and alert me quickly to any indication of discrimination in our class or campus.

### **Statement on 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) (<https://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 Policy**

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 Statement**

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**

It 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 may make audio or video recordings of course activity. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings from the course to individuals who are not students in the class is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and any of the students who are recorded.

## **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/](http://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/Gender Pronouns**

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](#). In addition to your chosen name, please do not hesitate to let me know if there are specific pronouns by which you would prefer to be addressed.

**Course Assignments & Grading:** The following are brief descriptions of our major course assignments.

**Student Profile Sheet:** This is a short assignment I will ask you to complete during our first week which helps me get to know you and your learning goals.

**Online Discussion:** This is a blended course which means that a portion of our class will be conducted online. Included in 12 of our learning modules will be an online discussion forum intended to assess your completion of that week's assigned materials, as well as your critical thinking and writing skills.

**Online Reading Quizzes:** In order to succeed in our course (and our exams) you will need to complete each week's reading. While our discussions will help you engage with those readings, we will have a total of 12 online reading quizzes intended to assess your completion and comprehension of assigned readings. Please note that our reading quizzes will cover supplemental readings that I provide for you, not our bookclub books.

**Impact & Action Paper:** After completing your bookclub book, you will each explore a theme introduced in your book that connects to bias, discrimination, or injustice in the U.S. criminal justice system. Your investigation of this topic will culminate in a 5-6 paged paper that examines current research on your topic, reflects on the impact your topic has on people and communities, and proposes a realistic action plan to improve conditions related to your topic. More information and guidance on this assignment will be provided to you during our course.

**Exams:** There will be two exams in our course that will include multiple choice, true-false, matching, short answer, and essay questions. You will receive a study guide for each exam before it is administered.

**Attendance:** Attendance to our class sessions is very important so it will be tracked and scored. That being said, perfect attendance is not expected. Your attendance score will only be impacted after your second absence. Please try to save your "freebie" absences for emergencies.

### **Points Breakdown**

Student Profile Sheet	5 points
Online Discussion (12 modules @ 10 pts each)	120 points
Online Reading Quizzes (10 modules @ 5 pts each)	50 points
Paper Topic	10 points
Impact & Action Paper	100 points
Exams: 2 exams @ 70 points each	140 points
Attendance	75 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 points</b>

### **Grading Structure**

A= 90%-100%

B= 80%-89.99%

C= 70%-79.99%

D= 60%-69.99%

F= Below 60%

## Course Schedule

Below is a projected schedule for our course; however, we may make adjustments as needed throughout the semester. Please log on to our Blackboard course site regularly to check on weekly assignments and deadlines.

Module	Dates	Topic	In-Class Activities	Online Assignments	Other Assignments Due
<b>Module 1</b>	Tuesday January 16 – Sunday January 21	Introductions	<b>Monday 1/15:</b> NO CLASS  <b>Wednesday 1/17:</b> Introduction to Course	(none)	<b>Bookclub Selections</b> due Friday January 19  <b>Student Profile Sheet</b> due Sunday January 21
<b>Module 2</b>	Monday January 22 – Sunday January 28	Understanding Bias & Intersectionality	<b>Monday 1/22:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion  <b>Wednesday 1/24:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion	<b>M2 Reading Quiz</b> due Thursday and <b>M2 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	<b>Order Bookclub Book</b> (after Caryn has placed you in a group)
<b>Module 3</b>	Monday January 29 – Sunday February 4	Race, Ethnicity, and Criminal Justice	<b>Monday 1/29:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion  <b>Wednesday 1/31:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion	<b>M3 Reading Quiz</b> due Thursday and <b>M3 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	(none)
<b>Module 4</b>	Monday February 5 – Sunday February 11	Race, Ethnicity, and Criminal Justice	<b>Monday 2/5:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion  <b>Wednesday 2/7:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion	<b>M4 Reading Quiz</b> due Thursday and <b>M4 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	(none)
<b>Module 5</b>	Monday February 12 – Sunday February 18	Women and the Criminal Justice System	<b>Monday 2/12:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion  <b>Wednesday 2/14:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion	<b>M5 Reading Quiz</b> due Thursday and <b>M5 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	<b>Must have Bookclub book by Sunday February 18</b>

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>In-Class Activities</b>	<b>Online Assignments</b>	<b>Other Assignments Due</b>
<b>Module 6</b>	Monday February 19 – Sunday February 25	Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People in the Criminal Justice System	<b>Monday 2/19:</b> NO CLASS  <b>Wednesday 2/21:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion	<b>M6 Reading Quiz</b> due Thursday and <b>M6 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	(none)
<b>Module 7</b>	Monday February 26 – Sunday March 4	Bookclubs	<b>Monday 2/26:</b> Bookclub #1 from 10:10-10:35 and Bookclub #2 from 10:35-11:00  <b>Wednesday 2/28:</b> Bookclub #3 from 10:10-10:35 and Bookclub #4 from 10:35-11:00	<b>M7 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	(none)
<b>Module 8</b>	Monday March 5 – Friday March 9	Midterm Exam	<b>Monday 3/5:</b> Exam Prep and Activity  <b>Wednesday 3/7:</b> Midterm Exam	(none)	(none)
	Saturday March 10 – Sunday March 18	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>			
<b>Module 9</b>	Monday March 19 – Sunday March 25	Sexual Orientation, Crime, and Criminal Justice	<b>Monday 3/19:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion  <b>Wednesday 3/21:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion	<b>M9 Reading Quiz</b> due Thursday and <b>M9 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	(none)
<b>Module 10</b>	Monday March 26 – Wednesday March 28	Sexual Orientation, Crime, and Criminal Justice	<b>Monday 3/26:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion  <b>Wednesday 3/28:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion	(none)	(none)

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>In-Class Activities</b>	<b>Online Assignments</b>	<b>Other Assignments Due</b>
	Thursday March 29 – Sunday April 1	<b>SPRING HOLIDAY</b>			
<b>Module 11</b>	Monday April 2 – Sunday April 8	Bookclubs	<p><b>Monday 4/2:</b> Bookclub #1 from 10:10-10:35 and Bookclub #2 from 10:35-11:00</p> <p><b>Wednesday 4/4:</b> Bookclub #3 from 10:10-10:35 and Bookclub #4 from 10:35-11:00</p>	<b>M11 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	(none)
<b>Module 12</b>	Monday April 9 – Sunday April 15	Economic Status and the Criminal Justice System	<p><b>Monday 4/9:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion</p> <p><b>Wednesday 4/11:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion</p>	<b>M12 Reading Quiz</b> due Thursday and <b>M12 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	<b>Paper Topic</b> due Sunday April 15
<b>Module 13</b>	Monday April 16 – Sunday April 22	Economic Status and the Criminal Justice System	<p><b>Monday 4/16:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion</p> <p><b>Wednesday 4/18:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion</p>	<b>M13 Reading Quiz</b> due Thursday and <b>M13 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	(none)
<b>Module 14</b>	Monday April 23 – Sunday April 29	Disability and the Criminal Justice System	<p><b>Monday 4/23:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion</p> <p><b>Wednesday 4/25:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion</p>	<b>M14 Reading Quiz</b> due Thursday and <b>M14 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	(none)
<b>Module 15</b>	Monday April 30 – Sunday May 6	Disability and the Criminal Justice System	<p><b>Monday 4/30:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion</p> <p><b>Wednesday 5/2:</b> Lecture, Activity, Discussion</p>	<b>M15 Reading Quiz</b> due Thursday and <b>M15 Discussion</b> due Thursday and Sunday	(none)

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>In-Class Activities</b>	<b>Online Assignments</b>	<b>Other Assignments Due</b>
<b>Module 16</b>	Monday May 7 – Thursday May 10	Impact & Action	<b>Monday 5/7:</b> NO CLASS – Paper Work Day  <b>Wednesday 5/9:</b> Exam Prep	(none)	<b>Impact &amp; Action Paper</b> due Thursday May 10
<b>FINALS WEEK</b>	<b>Wednesday May 16 8:45-10:45 a.m.</b>		<b>Final Exam on Wednesday May 16 at 8:45 a.m.</b>		