

COURSE SYLLABUS – HON 299AF
Race and Crime
Plassmann 211
Spring 2021

Section 001
Tuesday, Thursday 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Instructor: Dr. Samantha M. Gavin, Ph.D.

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Student Office Hours: Please email to schedule a Zoom meeting.

Zoom Office Hours ID: 922 8842 9120

Zoom Office Hours Password: Gavin

Course Description: This course focuses on the significance of race and ethnicity to the criminal justice system and criminal offending.

Course Objectives: Students will be able to:

1. Discuss the significant impact race has within the criminal justice system.
2. Discuss how race and ethnicity have played a key factor in policing, courts, and corrections, separately.
3. Discuss how race and ethnicity have influenced the criminal justice system throughout U.S. history to present day.
4. Analyze media portrayals of race and ethnicity in the criminal justice system and explain how media portrayals influence societal perceptions.

Program Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the Criminology and/or Sociology program at St. Bonaventure University, graduates will be able to:

1. Identify, apply, and analyze components of research methodology.
2. Identify, apply, and analyze theoretical paradigms.
3. Apply and synthesize criminological and sociological knowledge outside the classroom.

Required Text

LeBlanc, A. N. (2012). *Random family: Love, drugs, trouble, and coming of age in the Bronx*. New York: Scribner.

Supplemental required readings and additional materials are posted on the Moodle course website.

It is recommended you have a Netflix account for this course. Some of the assigned movies are on Netflix.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments: 945 total points allotted as follows:

Syllabus Quiz (10 points)

Class Attendance (125 points)

Class Participation (100 points)

Discussion Questions (120 points)

Book Analyses (60 points)

Random Family Discussion (30 points)

Film Analyses (150 points)

Changing Race and Crime Project (150 points)

Exams (200 points)

Syllabus Quiz (10 points)

A quiz pertaining to the syllabus will be given after the add/drop period ends. The quiz will demonstrate if you have read through the course syllabus or not. Reading through the syllabus is key to successfully completing the class. The quiz will be provided on the Moodle course website. It is ten (10) questions long, and you will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz. The syllabus quiz is due Tuesday January 25th by 11:59pm.

Note: You will not have access to any of the course materials (i.e., Power Point lectures, assignment descriptions/rubrics, exams) until you have received a 100% on the Syllabus Quiz.

Class Attendance (125 points)

Class Attendance = 25/27 (Can miss 2 classes)

5 points per class attended = 125 points

1 possible bonus points (5 points per class attended after required 25)

Attendance will be taken daily. You are required to attend 25 out of 27 classes. Therefore, you can miss a total of 2 classes, unexcused, before attendance begins to affect your grade. *It is up to you to obtain the material covered in class on the days you miss class.* **Note: In-class assignments/activities that are not completed due to missing class that day, cannot be made up.** Each class attended is worth 5 points, for a total of 125 points. For each class attended after the 25th class, you can earn 5 extra bonus points. Thus, you can earn a total of 10 bonus points on

class attendance, by attending all 27 classes. **If you arrive late to class (more than 10 minutes after class starts), or leave halfway through class, you will receive only 3 attendance points for that class.**

Excused absences are identified as late registration (week one), illness, COVID (including testing positive or being quarantined) active military service, emergencies, and athletic games. All excused absences must be documented, with the documentation submitted to the professor before the start of the missed class(es). Absences for athletic games will only be excused if they are reported to the professor ahead of time.

Note: For every 3 classes you miss, not including excused absences, your final grade will drop one complete letter grade. For example, if you had an A as a final grade, but you missed 3 classes unexcused, you would receive a B as a final grade. If you had an A as a final grade, but you missed 6 classes unexcused, you would receive a C as a final grade. After missing 7 classes, you will automatically fail the course and receive an F.

Class Participation (100 points)

This class is based heavily on in-class discussion. This means coming to class having read and watched the assigned materials, and partaking in class discussion. Discussion means providing more than just a brief comment or two. Be prepared to discuss the material and be an active member in class. Do not be afraid to state your opinion or to ask questions. Class participation is worth a total of 100 points, with 50 of these points possible during the Class Activity – *American Skin (41 Shots)*.

Discussion Questions (120 points)

Throughout the semester there are a total of 12 classes in which readings and movies are assigned for class discussion. For these assignments, you are required to create and answer two discussion questions. Each question and answer is worth 5 points, making each assignment worth 10 points. The due dates for each of the discussion question assignments are posted on the tentative schedule below. The discussion questions and answers are required to be typed, with a font style of Times New Roman, and a size of 12, and are due via Moodle *before* the start of class. If there is an issue with Moodle, please e-mail me (sgavin@sbu.edu) the assignment by the deadline instead.

Note: No late discussion questions will be accepted.

Book Analyses (60 points)

Throughout the semester we will be reading *Random Family*. The book will be analyzed in three parts. For each book analysis, you are required to provide a summary of the sections read, and

answer specific questions. Additionally, you are required to create two questions you had while reading each assigned section.

The book analyses are to be typed, with a font style of Times New Roman, and a size of 12. Each book analysis is worth 20 points, for a total of 60 points, and is due via Moodle. If there is an issue with Moodle, please e-mail me (sgavin@sbu.edu) the assignment by the deadline instead. A detailed description of this assignment along with a grading rubric are provided on Moodle. The assigned sections and due dates for each book analysis are as follows:

1. Part 1: The Street – Tuesday February 15th by 2:30pm
2. Part 2: Lockdown, and Part 3: Upstate – Tuesday April 5th by 2:30pm
3. Part 4: House to House, and Part 5: Breaking Out – Thursday April 28th by 2:30pm

Note: No late book analyses will be accepted.

Random Family Discussion (30 points)

Along with each book analysis, we will have an in-class discussion on the assigned readings. The discussions take place on the day the book analyses are due. Each discussion is worth 10 points, for a total of 30 points.

Film Analyses (150 points)

For this course you will write three film analyses. The film analyses will be on the following films: 1) *Free State of Jones*; 2) *Mississippi Burning*; and 3) *Strong Island*. For each of these analyses you need to provide a brief summary of the film, and explain how it relates to class material. Each film analysis is worth 50 points, for a total of 150 points. The analyses are to be typed, with a font style of Times New Roman, and a size of 12. A detailed description of this assignment along with a grading rubric are provided on Moodle.

Changing Race and Crime Project (150 points)

Your changing race and crime project consists of two parts: 1) paper; and 2) presentation.

For the paper portion of the project, you are required to examine one way in which the race – criminal justice system relationship could be improved upon. In doing so, explain what needs to be changed and why, how you would fix the issue, and why/how such changes would bring about improvement. Additionally, you must provide at least three scholarly articles of support. These articles must not only be scholarly articles, but you must discuss them in your paper in proper context, and properly cite the articles in APA format.

The paper is worth 100 points and is due Saturday May 7th by 8:00am via Moodle. If there is an issue with Moodle, please e-mail me (sgavin@sbu.edu) the assignment by the deadline instead.

Along with the paper, you are required to give a presentation on one way in which the race – criminal justice system relationship could be improved upon. In doing so, explain what needs to be changed and why, how you would fix the issue, and why/how such changes would bring about improvement. The presentation is worth 50 points. Class presentations are Saturday May 7th by 8:00am. Presentations are due via Moodle by this deadline. If there is an issue with Moodle, please e-mail me (sgavin@sbu.edu) the assignment by the deadline instead. A detailed description of this assignment, both paper and presenting, along with a grading rubric for each, are provided on Moodle.

Note: No late changing race and crime projects, paper nor presentation, will be accepted.

Exams (200 points)

There will be a total of two (2) exams. Each exam is worth 100 points. The exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, matching, and short answer questions. Each exam will comprise of material from specific chapters. None of the exams are comprehensive. The exams are timed, with the time length depending on the type and number of questions asked. If any exam is missed due to an unexcused absence, it can be made up, with points deducted. This will only be allowed for one exam. If you miss a second exam due to an unexcused absence, it cannot be made up. If you are found to have cheated on an exam (copied a classmate's answers), you will receive a 0 on the exam. Any questions with answers that are copied directly from the class PowerPoints, will not receive any points. The exams will be on Moodle, so you can take them online, from home. Therefore, you are not required to come to class the day of an exam. The exams will be on Thursday February 17th and Tuesday April 12th.

Grading: There are 945 possible points for this semester. All points will be totaled at the end of the semester, and grades will be computed as follows:

A = 93 to 100%	878 points or more
A- = 90 to 92%	850 – 877 points
B+ = 87 to 89%	822 – 849 points
B = 83 to 86%	784 – 821 points
B- = 80 to 82%	756 – 783 points
C+ = 77 to 79%	727 – 755 points
C = 73 to 76%	689 – 726 points
C- = 70 to 72%	661 – 688 points
D+ = 67 to 69%	633 – 660 points
D = 63 to 66%	595 – 632 points
D- = 60 to 62%	567 – 594 points
F = 0 to 59%	566 or fewer points

Late Assignments: Each day an assignment is late, 10% of the points allotted for that assignment will be deducted. After one week following its original due date, the assignment will

no longer be accepted as a late assignment, and a zero (0) will be given as the grade for that assignment. No late discussion questions, book analyses, or the changing race and crime project, will be accepted.

****Late assignments due to an excused absence (athletic game, military service, COVID-19 sickness), will be handled on a case-by-case basis.***

Plagiarism: Any instance of plagiarism will be assessed by the professor. First time consequences of negligence will result in a warning, receiving a zero (0) for the assignment, and completing a written assignment on plagiarism. Second time consequences of negligence or first-time consequences of purposeful plagiarism will result in a zero (0) for the assignment as well as reporting the incident to the Dean, as demonstrated in the *Academic Integrity Statement*. Plagiarism includes copying answers from a fellow student, failing to cite information used from an outside source, and/or improperly citing information used from an outside source.

For APA citation help, use Purdue Owl's APA citation guidelines for assistance. These guidelines can be found at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. If you have any further questions or need clarification, please ask the professor for assistance.

****If you have any questions relating to plagiarism, how to cite information, or if you are unsure if something constitutes plagiarism, please see me for assistance.****

Academic Integrity Statement: Academic dishonesty is inconsistent with the moral character expected of students in a University committed to the spiritual and intellectual growth of the whole person. It also subverts the academic process by distorting all measurements. It is a serious matter and will be dealt with accordingly. A list of unacceptable practices, penalties to be assigned, and procedures to be followed in prosecuting cases of alleged academic dishonesty may be found in the Student Handbook. This information can be found at <http://bit.ly/1k7FV2f>.

Writing Lab: The SBU Writing Lab encourages all students working on writing projects to seek help from our knowledgeable tutors. Writing Lab tutors are available for both in-person and remote sessions (via Zoom). Even if you do not have a draft to share, a tutor can help you brainstorm or work through an outline for an upcoming project.

To meet with a writing tutor, stop by the Student Success Center in Plassmann 100, or email the Writing Lab at writinglab@sbu.edu with your request. You may either schedule a tutoring session in advance or simply attend drop-in hours. The Writing Lab's schedule can be found on the Student Success Center page within the Academics section on MySBU.

Upon request, the Writing Lab can also send your instructor a session report outlining your visit and the tutor's recommendations.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Classroom Conduct: Creating an effective and pleasant learning environment requires cooperation. This is especially important in a course like this one, in which we discuss controversial topics. Remember to respond to *ideas*, not to people, and to treat each other with respect. In addition, please be on time, turn off cell phone ringers, and do not text during class.

Use of Cell Phones or Other Electronic Devices: The use of laptops and tablets are allowed during class to take notes. Cell phone use is not allowed during class. Cell phones should be placed on vibrate, if not turned off during class. If it is found that you are using your laptop or tablet devices inappropriately, or if I notice you texting during class, a verbal warning will be provided the first time. If this is a daily or weekly occurrence, I may ask to meet with you to discuss the issue. After the initial warning, for each time your cell phone rings, I inform you to stop texting, or inappropriate cell phone, laptop, or tablet usage become a problem, **twenty** points will be deducted from your participation points. We are all adults and each of us deserves respect when we are speaking, learning, and interacting with one another.

Zoom Class Rules

For classes that we use Zoom for, you **must** have your cameras on during class, and be sitting in front of your camera so you can be seen. Failure to do so will result in you being kicked out of the Zoom session, and receiving 0 points for attendance for that day. If your camera is off, there is no proof you are actually attending class. In addition, please stay muted unless you are going to ask a question, participate in class discussion, etc.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services Office, Doyle Room 26, at 375-2065 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. ***Documentation from this office is required before accommodations can be made.*** Please visit <http://bit.ly/1iOybaE> for more information.

Note: Any medical accommodation requests that have not gone through the Disability Support Services Office, will not be accepted without proper medical documentation provided.

COVID-19 Caveat

If the course is required to move online at any point during the semester, the course structure will not change. Instead of meeting in-class, we will meet via Zoom instead.

TENTATIVE COURSE SYLLABUS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings Due</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
Tuesday January 18 th	Review Syllabus Ice Breaker		
Thursday January 20 th	Defining Race and Crime	Read: Steffensmeier et al. (2011)	DQ #1
Tuesday January 25 th	Theoretical Explanations – Critical Race Theory and Strain Theory	Read: Rios (2012)	DQ #2 Syllabus Quiz due by 11:59pm
Thursday January 27 th	Theoretical Explanations – Social Disorganization Theory and Social Learning Theory	Read: Logan (2003)	DQ #3
Tuesday February 1 st	Historical Overview	Read: <i>Jim Crow Laws</i> Watch <i>13th</i> (Netflix or YouTube)	DQ #4
Thursday February 3 rd	Historical Overview	Watch <i>Free State of Jones</i> (YouTube – Rent)	DQ #5 Film Analysis #1 due by 11:59pm
Tuesday February 8 th	Present Day Overview – The Newark Riots and Rodney King Riots	Watch <i>LA 92</i> (YouTube – NatGeo Free Version)	DQ #6
Thursday February 10 th	Present Day Overview – BLM		

Tuesday February 15 th	<i>Random Family</i> Discussion	Read <i>Random Family</i> Part 1: The Street	Book Analysis #1 due by 1:00pm
Thursday February 17 th	Exam #1		
Tuesday February 22 nd	Law Enforcement – Minority Officers	Read: Hassell & Brandl (2009)	DQ #7
Thursday February 24 th	Law Enforcement – Racial Profiling	Read: Tomaskovic- Devey & Warren (2009) Watch: <i>You Got Pegged – Act 1</i>	DQ #8
Tuesday March 1 st	NO CLASS – Midterm Break		
Thursday March 3 rd	NO CLASS – Midterm Break		
Tuesday March 8 th	Law Enforcement – Stop and Frisk		
Thursday March 10 th	Law Enforcement – What Constitutes Police Brutality?		
Tuesday March 15 th	NO CLASS – ACJS Conference	Watch: <i>Mississippi Burning</i> (Library or Hulu)	Film Analysis #2 due Friday March 18th by 11:59pm
Thursday March 17 th	NO CLASS – ACJS Conference	Read: <i>Random Family</i>	
Tuesday March 22 nd	Courts – Inadequate Counsel	Read: Chin (2013)	DQ #9

Thursday March 24 th	Courts – Prosecution and Sentencing	Read: Western & Pettit (2002)	DQ #10
Tuesday March 29 th	Courts – Death Penalty	Read: Banner (2002)	DQ #11
Thursday March 31 st	Corrections – Mass Incarceration and the War on Drugs		
Tuesday April 5 th	<i>Random Family</i> Discussion	Read: <i>Random Family</i> Part 2: Lockdown and Part 3: Upstate	Book Analysis #2 due by 1:00pm
Thursday April 7 th	Corrections – Parole and Recidivism	Read: Heubner & Bynum (2008)	DQ #12
Tuesday April 12 th	Exam #2		
Thursday April 14 th	NO CLASS – Spring Break		
Tuesday April 19 th	Special Topic – Immigration		
Thursday April 21 st	Special Topic – Media and Race	Watch <i>Strong Island</i> (Netflix)	Film Analysis #3 due by 11:59pm
Tuesday April 26 th	Special Topic – Media and Law Enforcement		
Thursday April 28 th	<i>Random Family</i> Discussion	Read: <i>Random Family</i> Part 4: House to House and Part 5: Breaking Out	Book Analysis #3 due by 1:00pm
Tuesday May 3 rd	Class Activity – <i>American Skin (41 Shots)</i>		

Thursday May 5th

Class Activity –
*American Skin (41
Shots)*

Saturday May 7th
8:00am – 10:30am

Presentations

**Changing Race and
Crime Project (Paper
and Presentation)**
