

CRM/LAW C116. Race, Ethnicity, and Social Control
Department of Criminology, Law and Society
University of California, Irvine
Spring 2019

Monday/Wednesday 12:30pm-1:50pm
Social Science Lab (SSL) 248

Instructor: Marina Bell

Office Hours: Social Ecology II 3346, Wednesday 2:10pm-3:10pm, or by appointment

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Teaching Assistant: Alyssa Heckman

Office Hours: Social Ecology II 2354, Wednesday 10:30am-11:30am, or by appointment

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Description:

Understanding race and social control in America is fundamental to understanding America, period. This class provides a historical and sociological survey of racial relations in contexts of crime control, looking at race and ethnicity as social constructs, and the role of these dynamic constructs in shaping—and being shaped by—politics, power relations, and economic and material conditions in American society. We will look at the roles of racial ideology and structural racism in determining ideas and practices of criminalization and state carceral control, and how historical modes of racialized social control such as slavery and segregation have taken on new forms in mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex. The goal of the class will be to impart to you how our collective understandings of safety, crime, and justice are shaped by the logics of racial capitalism, how racism and oppression are produced and reproduced by these systems of social control, what alternatives there are, and ultimately, what we can do to create positive social change.

Grading:

- **Exams (30% each):** There will be a mid-term and a final exam. Both will be essay question and possibly short-answer format. Bring a one-page (maximum), handwritten sheet of notes, which you will turn in, and *will count toward your exam score*. You must make the note sheet yourself. The final will not be cumulative.
- **Short Essay (20%):** You will have one 2-3 page paper due near the end of the quarter, in which you'll be asked to focus on two (or more if you like) pieces of assigned media (readings, podcasts, videos, films) or themes in the course, compare and contrast them, and/or write about how they relate to one another, and provide your own (informed) reflections.
- **Participation (20%):** Participation will be assessed via several in-class activities throughout the quarter. Qualitative evaluation will also be a part of final grading assessment, i.e. did you participate in and contribute meaningfully to class discussion, did you come to office hours, ask questions, or otherwise demonstrate engagement in the class?

Extra Credit Opportunities: There will be an opportunity for extra credit that may involve attending an event, or watching a pre-approved film and writing a 1-2 reflection paper, providing a reaction based on class material.

Required Readings:

All required reading will be posted on the class webpage; you do not need to purchase any books:
<https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/16035>.

Course Schedule: (subject to change)

Week 1: Introduction and History

April 1st: Introduction and History

- Cornell, S., & Hartmann, D. (2006). Mapping the terrain: Definitions. In *Ethnicity and race: Making identities in a changing world*. Sage Publications.
- Davis, A. (2003). Chapter 2: Slavery, civil rights, and abolitionist perspectives toward prisons. In *Are prisons obsolete?* Seven Stories Press: New York. pp. 22-39

April 3rd: The Myth of Color-Blind Racism

- Brown, M. K., Carnoy, M., Currie, E., Oppenheimer, D. B., Wellman, D., & Shultz, M. M. (2003). Of fish and water. In *Whitewashing race: The myth of a color-blind society*. Univ of California Press.
- Bonilla-Silva, E. (2006). The Central frames of color-blind racism. In *Racism without racists: Color-blind racism and the persistence of racial inequality in the United States*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Week 2: Historical Amnesia and the Persistence of Racism

April 8th: Historical Amnesia and “Reverse Racism”

- Lawrence, C. R. III (1998). Race and affirmative action: A critical race perspective. In Kairys, D. (1998). *The politics of law: A progressive critique*. Hachette UK.
- **Video:** Bill Moyers Journal: The Kerner Commission 40 years later. 2008.
<https://vimeo.com/33221356>
Transcript: <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/03282008/watch.html>

April 10th: Racism Persists

- Sue, D. W., Capodilupo, C. M., Torino, G. C., Bucceri, J. M., Holder, A., Nadal, K. L., & Esquilin, M. (2007). Racial microaggressions in everyday life: Implications for clinical practice. *American psychologist*, 62(4), 271.
- **Video:** Democracy Now! (2018). Web Bonus: Linda Villarosa on Black Maternal Health Crisis & America’s Hidden HIV Epidemic.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=264syC9YxUc>

Week 3: Constructing Black Criminality and Racialized Social Control

April 15th: Constructing Black Criminality

- Butler, P. (2018). Chapter 1: Constructing the thug. In *Chokehold: Policing black men*. The New Press. pp. 17-46.
- Goff, P. A., Jackson, M. C., Leone, D., Lewis, B. A., Culotta, C. M., & DiTomasso, N. A. (2014). The essence of innocence: Consequences of dehumanizing Black children. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 106(4), 526.

April 17th: Racialized Social Control

- Coates, T. (2015). *Between the world and me*. Random House: New York. pp. 1-33
- Ward, G. (2015). The slow violence of state organized race crime. *Theoretical Criminology*, 19(3), 299-314.

Week 4: Incarceration and Race

April 22nd: Incarceration and Race

Guest Speaker: *Michael Savaedra*

- Meade, D. (2010). Politics: for politicians or prisoners?. In *OpenLine*. Prison University Project.
- Wacquant, L. (2001). Deadly symbiosis: When ghetto and prison meet and mesh. *Punishment & Society*, 3(1), 95-133
- Brewer, R. M., & Heitzeg, N. A. (2008). The racialization of crime and punishment: Criminal justice, color-blind racism, and the political economy of the prison industrial complex. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 51(5), 625-644.

April 24th: Film Screening – “13th”

- **Podcast:** Carter G. Wood Institute for African American and African Studies, # 47: Race, Drugs, and the New Jim Crow. Interview with Michelle Alexander.
<https://itunes.apple.com/podcast/id401906530?mt=2&ls=1>

Week 5: Mid-term Exam

April 29th: MID-TERM EXAM

May 1st: Film Screening – “I Am Not Your Negro,” James Baldwin documentary

- No assignments

Week 6: Collateral Consequences

May 6th: Individual Level

- Pager, D. (2003). The mark of a criminal record. *American journal of sociology*, 108(5), 937-975.
- Saperstein, A., & Penner, A. M. (2010). The race of a criminal record: How incarceration colors racial perceptions. *Social Problems*, 57(1), 92-113.

May 8th: Societal Level

- Miller, R. J. (2014). Devolving the carceral state: Race, prisoner reentry, and the micro-politics of urban poverty management. *Punishment & Society*, 16(3), 305-335.
- Murakawa, N., & Beckett, K. (2010). The penology of racial innocence: The erasure of racism in the study and practice of punishment. *Law & Society Review*, 44(3-4), 695-730.

Week 7: Policing

May 13th: Racial Violence and Disparities in Policing

- **Podcast:** Criminal Injustice #64: Paul Butler, *Chokehold: Policing Black Men*.
<http://www.criminalinjusticepodcast.com/episodes>
- Epp, C. R., Maynard-Moody, S., & Haider-Markel, D. (2017). Beyond profiling: The institutional sources of racial disparities in policing. *Public Administration Review*, 77(2), 168-178.
- Richardson, L. S. (2014). Police racial violence: Lessons from social psychology. *Fordham L. Rev.*, 83, 2961.

May 15th: Racial Violence and Disparities in Policing Cont'd.

Guest Lecture: Alyssa Heckman

- McDowell, M. (2019). Insurgent safety: Theorizing alternatives to state protection. *Theoretical Criminology*, 23(1), pp. 43-57.

Week 8: The Death Penalty and Death-In-Prison Sentences

May 20th: Racial Disparities in Capital Punishment Sentencing

- Eberhardt et al (2006): “Looking deathworthy: Perceived stereotypicality of Black defendants predicts capital-sentencing outcomes”.

May 22nd: Racial Disparities in Capital Punishment Sentencing Cont’d

- Stevenson, B. (2015). Chapter Fourteen: Cruel and unusual. In *Just mercy: A story of justice and redemption*. New York: Spiegel & Grau. pp. 256-274.

Week 9: Riots and Unrest: Unmet Demands

May 27th: Film screening: “LA 92”

- ESSAY DUE by start of class

May 29th: Riots and Unrest: Unmet Demands

- US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. (2016). Investigation of the Baltimore City Police Department. **Pages 3-11, Executive Summary.**

Week 10: What Can We Do About It? Reparations and Alternatives

June 3rd: Reparations and Alternative Justice Systems

- Coates, T. N. (2014). The case for reparations. *The Atlantic*, 313(5), 54-71.

June 5th: Abolition and Alternative Justice Systems Cont’d

- **Podcast:** Justice in America, Episode #20, Season 2: Mariame Kaba and Prison Abolition
- **Video:** Deanna Van Buren TED talk, “What a world without prisons could look like?”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6X1i8khmt8>
- Davis, A. (2003). Chapter 6: Abolitionist alternatives. In *Are prisons obsolete?* Seven Stories Press: New York. pp. 105-115

Final exam scheduled for Wednesday June 12 4:00-6:00pm

Disability Accommodations:

If you have a disability, or believe you may have a disability, contact me or the Disability Services Center (<https://dsc.uci.edu/>) for information on how to seek accommodation.

Academic Integrity:

UCI ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

Academic honesty is a requirement for passing this class. Any student who compromises the academic integrity of this course is subject to a failing grade. The work you submit must be your own. Academic misconduct, in its most basic form, is gaining or attempting to gain a grade, degree, or other academic accomplishment by any means other than through your own work. It includes, but is not limited to copying answers from another student, allowing another student to copy your answers, communicating exam answers to other students during an exam, attempting to use notes or other aids during an exam except when permitted, tampering with an exam after it has been corrected and then returning it for more credit or submitting an essay that is not written exclusively by you and properly cited. If you do so, you will be in violation of the UCI Policies on Academic Honesty (see <https://aisc.uci.edu/>). It is your responsibility to read and understand these policies.

Note that any instance of academic dishonesty is cause for a failing grade in the course.