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

April 3rd: The Myth of Color-Blind Racism

Week 2: Historical Amnesia and the Persistence of Racism
April 8th: Historical Amnesia and “Reverse Racism”
  Transcript: http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/03282008/watch.html

April 10th: Racism Persists

Week 3: Constructing Black Criminality and Racialized Social Control
April 15th: Constructing Black Criminality

April 17th: Racialized Social Control
**Week 4: Incarceration and Race**  
**April 22**: Incarceration and Race  
**Guest Speaker: Michael Savadra**


**April 24**: 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.  

**Week 5: Mid-term Exam**  
**April 29**: MID-TERM EXAM  
**May 1**: Film Screening – “I Am Not Your Negro,” James Baldwin documentary  
- No assignments

**Week 6: Collateral Consequences**  
**May 6**: Individual Level


**May 8**: Societal Level


**Week 7: Policing**  
**May 13**: Racial Violence and Disparities in Policing

- **Podcast:** Criminal Injustice #64: Paul Butler, *Chokehold: Policing Black Men.*  
  [http://www.criminalinjusticepodcast.com/episodes](http://www.criminalinjusticepodcast.com/episodes)

**May 15**: Racial Violence and Disparities in Policing Cont’d.  
**Guest Lecture: Alyssa Heckman**  

**Week 8: The Death Penalty and Death-In-Prison Sentences**
May 20th: Racial Disparities in Capital Punishment Sentencing

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

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

Week 10: What Can We Do About It? Reparations and Alternatives
June 3rd: Reparations and Alternative Justice Systems

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

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.