

Criminal Justice 563
Race, Crime, and Criminal Justice
Fall 2007
John D. Burrow, J.D., Ph.D.

Office: 108 Currell College
Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:30-2:30 P.M.; Other times by Appointment only
Phone: 777-6517
Email: burrowj@gwm.sc.edu

This course reviews the race-crime controversy. This controversy centers largely on whether the over representation of minorities, specifically African-Americans and Latinos, is explained through disproportionate criminal conduct or discriminatory criminal justice and legal policies that target these groups. In discussing these issues, we will explore whether social class plays an influential role in determining outcomes in the criminal justice/legal systems. Thus, there will be a review over the nature of crime and the meaning or significance attached to social class.

This course will exam the legal/criminal justice system with relation to race and crime. While this is not a theory course, some attention will be given to theoretical issues raised in the research literature relative to race, gender, and social class. We will review suggestions and claims of racial and social class bias within the criminal justice system. We will also review crime statistics that center on characteristics of offenders, arrests, prosecutions, sentencing, and incarceration. Finally, we will address public policy questions that are raised within the criminal justice and legal systems such as racial profiling, capital punishment, and War on Drugs.

In addition to examining the empirical evidence on race and crime, we will explore the linkages between social class and crime and social class and race. In this manner, we will be able to examine the relevant literature and theories on race, crime, and social class.

Finally, we will examine legal and criminal justice policies and their consequences for minorities in our society. We will explore the possibility that "race-neutral" policies have the hidden effect of disadvantaging certain groups in the community. In the alternative, we will explore the possibility race continues to influence criminal justice and legal policies and how they are applied (or misapplied) relative to certain disadvantaged groups.

There is no textbook required for this class. I made this decision primarily because there really no good texts that adequately and fairly discuss the issue of race and criminal justice. For this reason, I have used my best judgment in selecting readings and activities that I believe give good treatment to the ongoing debate on this issue.

All readings for this class will be placed on Blackboard. You will only need to access the class link to find the material that will be responsible for reading on any given week. It is very important that these readings be obtained in advance of class in view that they will play a very important part in all class discussions.

Grading: Grades for this class will be based on the following criteria:

<i>Exam I</i>	<i>100 pts</i>
<i>Exam II</i>	<i>100 pts</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>100 pts</i>
<i>Quizzes</i>	<i>50 pts</i>

Final Grades will be based on the following scale:

92%-100%	= A
86%-91%	= B+
80%-85%	= B
75%-79%	= C+
70%-74%	= C
65%-69%	= D+
60%-64%	= D
Below 60%	= F

Class Meeting Schedule

August 23	Course Introduction
Aug 28- Aug 30	Discrimination and Disparity: Kathryn Russell. (1994). The Racial Inequality Hypothesis: A Critical Look at the Research. <i>Law and Human Behavior</i> , 18, 305-317. Rodney Engen, Sara Steen, and George Bridges. (2002). Racial Disparities in the Punishment of Youth. <i>Social Problems</i> , 49, 194-220.
Sept 4- Sept 6	Race and Drugs: (2000). Winning the War on Drugs. <i>Harvard Law Review</i> , 113, 1485-1502. William Stuntz. (1998). Race, Class, and Drugs. <i>Columbia Law Review</i> . 98, 1795-1842.
Sept 11- Sept 13	Cathy Lee Schneider (1998). Racism, Drug Policy, and AIDS. <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> , 113, 427-446. Lynn Paltrow (2002). The War on Drugs and the War on Abortion. <i>Reproductive Health Matters</i> , 10, 162-170. Barr, Farrell, Barnes, and Welte (1993). Race, Class, and Gender Differences in Substance Abuse. <i>Social Problems</i> , 40, 314-327.
Sept 18- Sept 25	Race and Sentencing Doris Provine. (1998). Too Many Black Men. <i>Law and Social Inquiry</i> . 23, 823-853. Steffensmeier and Demuth. (2000). Ethnicity and Sentencing Outcomes in U.S. Federal Courts. <i>American Sociological Review</i> , 65, 705-729. Driessen and Dunham (2002). Sentencing Dissonance in the United States. <i>American Journal of Comparative Law</i> , Autumn, 623-641.

Exam #1- Sept 27

Oct 2- Oct 4

Race, Place and the Difference it Makes

Meares and Kahan (1998). Law and (Norms of) Order in the Inner City. *Law & Society Review*, 32, 805-838.

William Chambliss (1994). Policing the Ghetto Underclass. *Social Problems*, 41, 177-194.

Oct 9- Oct 16

Race and the Media

Richard Lundman (2003). The Newsworthiness and Selection Bias in News about Homicide. *Sociological Forum*, 18, 357- 386.

Gilliam and Iyengar. (2000). Prime Suspects. *American Journal of Political Science*, 44, 560-573

Oct 18- Oct 23

Race and Order Maintenance Policing

Bernard Harcourt. (1998). Critique on the Social Influence Conception of Broken Windows. *Michigan Law Review*, 97, 1-70.

Oct 30

Race and Street Stops

Jeff Fagan and Garth Davies. (2000). Street Stops and Broken Windows. *Fordham Urban Law Journal*. 28, 457-504.

Exam #II- Nov 1

Nov 6- Nov 8

Race and Hate Crimes

Frederick Lawrence. (1994). The punishment of hate. *Michigan Law Review*, 93(2), 320-381.

Nov 13- Nov 20

Racialized Legal Defenses

Judd Sneirson. (1995). Black Rage and the Criminal Law. *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, 143, 2251-2288.

Wally Owens (1995). Urban Survival Syndrome. *American Journal of Criminal Law*, 22, 809-821.

Nov 27- Dec 6

Racial Profiling

Robin Engel (2002). Theory and Racial Profiling. *Justice Quarterly*, 19, 249-273.

David Harris (1994). Factors for Reasonable Suspicion. Indiana Law Journal, 69, 659-688.

Tomaskovic-Devey, Mason, and Zingraff (2004). Looking for the Driving While Black Phenomena. Police Quarterly, 7, 3-29.

Final Exam- Dec 17 at 9:00 A.M.