

Social Inequality, Crime & Justice - CRIM 307.DL3 (Fall 2020)

Online synchronous and asynchronous hybrid

Meeting times: Wednesdays, 11:00 am to 12:15 pm

Office/student hours: Tuesdays, 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm, or by appointment

About the Instructor – Andrew Novak

I am term assistant professor of criminology, law and society at George Mason University. My research is primarily on the death penalty, human rights, and comparative law. I have an M.Sc. in African Politics (London), a J.D. (Boston), and a Ph.D. in law (Middlesex). I am licensed to practice law in New York and Washington, DC.

Email: anovak2@gmu.edu

Required Textbooks

The course has two textbooks and both are required. However, you won't need both at the same time: we will use the Barkan book for the first six weeks and the Garcia Hernandez book for the last six weeks.

Steven E. Barkan, *Race, Crime and Justice: The Continuing American Dilemma* (2018 Oxford University Press)

Cesar Cuauhtemoc Garcia Hernandez, *Migrating to Prison: America's Obsession with Locking Up Immigrants* (2019 New Press)

Grading scale for the class

I will not use the grades “D+” or “D-.”

98-100 A+

93-97 A

90-92 A-

88-89 B+

83-87 B

80-82 B-

78-79 C+

73-77 C

70-72 C-

60-69 D

<60 F

In addition, in the event that I must calculate grade fractions, I will always round up to the next highest point if you have a 0.45 or higher.

Grading rubric

Your grade in this class is based on a cumulative point total.

12 Weekly Quizzes (15 points each): 180 points

12 Writing/Editing/Research Assignments (5 points each): 60 points

8 Interactive Workshops (Last four weeks of the course only) (2.5 points each): 20 points

Total: 260 points (20 points available each week for 8 weeks + 25 points available each week for last 4 weeks)

Attendance

This course meets in live session 8 times after the introduction class. The last four weeks of this course are asynchronous. Instead of live discussions, students will need to complete online interactive workshops, which are not timed.

This course has a minimum attendance requirement. Other than the introduction class, you must attend 4 web conferences out of the 8 (after the introduction) or your grade will be reduced by a flat 15 points.

If you attend at least 6 of 8 web conferences (other than the introduction class), I will give you a 100% on your lowest weekly quiz grade or assignment, whichever is more advantageous. I will add up to 15 points to your final point total.

Attendance at the web conferences is defined as being logged in for a critical mass of the class. Signing in and out is not an attendance. If you know in advance that you are unable to attend the web conference, please let me know. I will be able to offer you a conference call line so you can dial in. You may not attend the web conferences while driving. This includes the conference call line as well.

Course schedule

Lectures, readings, online assignments, and quizzes each week are available on Blackboard.

Wednesday, August 26: Introductory class

Wednesday, September 2: Introduction to Critical Criminology (Quiz 1 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, September 9: Myth of Colorblindness (Quiz 2 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, September 16: Overcriminalization (Quiz 3 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, September 23: Policing (Quiz 4 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, September 30: Prosecution (Quiz 5 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, October 7: In the Courtroom (Quiz 6 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, October 14: Sentencing (Quiz 7 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, October 21: Mass Incarceration (Quiz 8 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, October 28: Collateral Consequences (Quiz 9 due at 11:00 am)

No class November 4 because of Election Day

Wednesday, November 11: Death Penalty and Wrongful Convictions (Quiz 10 due at 11:00 am)

Wednesday, November 18: Immigration Enforcement (Quiz 11 due at 11:00 am)

No class on November 25 due to Thanksgiving break

Wednesday, December 2: Going Global and Juvenile Justice (Quiz 12 due at 11:00 am)

Honor Code

Sharing of instructor-created materials, particularly materials relevant to assignments or exams, to public online “study” sites is considered a violation of Mason’s Honor Code. For more information, see the Office of Academic Integrity’s summary of information about online study sites.

The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification.

For the full Honor Code, see academicintegrity.gmu.edu.

Disability Accommodations

If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should (1) make sure this documentation is on file with Office for Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; <http://ods.gmu.edu>) to determine the accommodations you need; and (2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs. I want to be helpful.

Late Policy

You must take 12 weekly quizzes, 12 assignments, and in the last four weeks, 8 workshops this semester. These are not timed and do not need to be completed in one sitting. Therefore, ordinarily no extensions will be given. If you are unable to complete one of these assignments by the deadline, you must notify me within 48 hours. Once I reveal the answers to the class, you will not be able to take the quiz. It is within my discretion to allow you to take a portion of the quiz for partial credit.

Diversity/Inclusion

As a faculty member and designated “Responsible Employee,” I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per university policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu).

This course seeks to create a learning environment that fosters respect for people across identities. We welcome and value individuals and their differences, including gender expression and identity, race, economic status, sex, sexuality, ethnicity, national origin, first language, religion, age and ability. We encourage all members of the learning environment to engage with the material personally, but to also be open to exploring and learning from experiences different than their own.