

## Social Inequality, Crime & Justice - CRIM 307 DL 3

Asynchronous online course (Novak)

Fall 2021

Student hours: Online on Thursdays from 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm, or by appointment

### About the Instructor

Andrew Novak is 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.

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### Readings

This course has one required textbook: Angela Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Seven Stories Press, 2003. However, this book is available on the internet for free and I have shared the link. All other readings will be held in electronic course reserves and posted on Blackboard.

These are the other readings:

Tressie McMillan Cottom, "Dying to Be Competent," from *Thick: And Other Essays* (2019), pages 73-97.

Jacinta Gau and Kareem Jordan, "Profiling Trayvon: Young Black Males, Suspicion, and Surveillance," in *Deadly Injustice: Trayvon Martin, Race, and the Criminal Justice System* (eds. Devon Johnson, Patricia Warren & Amy Farrell) (NYU Press, 2015), pages 7-22.

Maya Chenwar & Victoria Law, "Chapter 1: Your Home Is Your Prison," in *Prison by Any Other Name: The Harmful Consequences of Popular Reforms* (New Press, 2020), pages 25-49.

Laura Mansnerus, "For What They Might Do: A Sex Offender Exception to the Constitution," in *The War on Sex* (eds. David Halperin and Trevor Hoppe) (Duke University Press, 2017), pages 268-288.

Cesar Cuauhtemoc Garcia Hernandez, "Chapter 6: The Money," in *Migrating to Prison: America's Obsession with Locking Up Immigrants* (New Press, 2019), pages 119-135.

Maurice Tomlinson, "The New War on Sex: A Report from the Global Front Lines," in *The War on Sex* (eds. David Halperin and Trevor Hoppe) (Duke University Press, 2017), pages 409-428.

### Grading Scale

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 (3 points each): 36 points

24 Weekly Workshops (1 point each): 24 points

Total: 240 points (20 points available each week for 12 weeks)

### **Late Policy**

You must take 12 weekly quizzes, 12 assignments, and 24 workshops this semester. These are not timed and do not need to be completed in one sitting. If you are unable to complete a quiz by the deadline, you must notify me within 48 hours.

At the end of the semester, I will provide a final deadline by which all late work must be turned in, including the weekly workshops. Typically, this will be right when I am about to calculate and upload grades. I cannot change a grade once it has been turned in, so it is essential all late work be turned in by the drop-dead deadline.

Since this class has no final paper or project other than the weekly assignments, it is not possible for me to give incompletes for late work.

### **Course Schedule**

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

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Monday, August 30: Introduction to Critical Criminology (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Cottom, "Dying to Be Competent"

Monday, September 6: Myth of Colorblindness (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Davis, Ch. 1

Monday, September 13: Overcriminalization (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Davis, Ch. 2

Monday, September 20: Policing (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Gau and Jordan, "Profiling Trayvon"

Monday, September 27: Prosecution (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Davis, Ch. 3

Monday, October 4: In the Courtroom (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Davis, Ch. 4

Monday, October 11: **Staycation** 🙌 (No work due)

Monday, October 18: Sentencing (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Davis, Ch. 5

Monday, October 25: Mass Incarceration (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Davis, Ch. 6

Monday, November 1: Collateral Consequences (Assignments due at 11:59 pm )

- Reading: Schenwar and Law, "Your Home Is Your Prison"

Monday, November 8: Death Penalty and Wrongful Convictions (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Mansnerus, "For What They Might Do"

Monday, November 15: Immigration Enforcement and Detention (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Garcia Hernandez, "The Money"

Monday, November 22: Going Global / Juvenile Justice (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Tomlinson, "The New War on Sex"

### **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](http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu).

### **Disability Accommodation**

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.

### **Diversity and 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](mailto: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.