

## **Social Inequality, Crime & Justice - CRIM 307 B 01**

Asynchronous online course (Novak)

Summer Session B 2022

Student hours: By appointment

### **About the Instructor**

I am Instructional Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University (Instructional Associate Professor as of August 2022). 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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### **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.

7 weekly quizzes (20 points each) = 140 points

7 weekly assignments (6 points each) = 42 points

14 weekly workshops (2 points each) = 28 points

Total = 210 points

### **Late Policy**

You must take 7 weekly quizzes, 7 assignments, and 14 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. Requests after 48 hours are at my discretion, so please do ask anyway. The sooner you ask, the more time you'll have to do the assignment.

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.

**Tuesday, June 7, 2022:** Course opens

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022:** Introduction to Critical Criminology (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Tressie McMillan Cottom, "Dying to Be Competent" from Thick and Other Essays
- Quiz 1 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Lectures: Introduction to Critical Criminology, A Colorblind Legal System?
- Two weekly workshops (Graffiti and Careers) - 2 points each
- Introductory survey - 6 points

**Tuesday, June 21, 2022:** Criminalization and Offending (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Andrew Novak, "Toward a Critical Criminology of HIV Criminalization," Critical Criminology
- Quiz 2 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Lectures: Choosing What to Criminalize, Perceptions of Offenders, Hate Crimes
- Two weekly workshops (Correcting Historical Injustices and Discretion) - 2 points each
- Short editing assignment - 6 points

**Tuesday, June 28, 2022:** Policing and Victimization (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Jacinta Gau and Kareem Jordan, "Profiling Trayvon: Young Black Males, Suspicion, and Surveillance," in Deadly Injustice
- Quiz 3 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Lectures: Policing and Inequality, Policing (Part 2), In the Courtroom
- Two weekly workshops (Blue Lives Matter Laws and Criminology Theory) - 2 points each
- Topic Sentence Assignment - 6 points

**Tuesday, July 5, 2022:** Prosecution and Trial (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Angela Davis, "How Gender Structures the Prison System," in Are Prisons Obsolete?
- Quiz 4 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Lectures: Unequal Prosecution, Jury Selection
- Two weekly workshops (Merger Doctrine and Pro Se Prisoner Litigation) - 2 points each
- Condense a Passage Assignment - 6 points

**Tuesday, July 12, 2022:** Sentencing and Incarceration (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Laura Mansnerus, "For What They Might Do: A Sex Offender Exception to the Constitution," in *The War on Sex*
- Quiz 5 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Lectures: Sentencing Disparities, Mass Incarceration, Prison Conditions
- Two weekly workshops (Solitary Confinement and Parenting in Prison) - 2 points each
- Prison Conditions Assignment - 6 points

**Tuesday, July 19, 2022:** Death Penalty, Innocence, and Parole (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Maya Chenwar & Victoria Law, "Chapter 1: Your Home Is Your Prison," in *Prison by Any Other Name*
- Quiz 6 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Lectures: Wrongful Convictions, Death Penalty, Parole
- Two weekly workshops (Drug Courts and Pardons) - 2 points each
- Death Penalty Survey - 6 points

**Tuesday, July 26, 2022:** Immigration Enforcement (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Cesar Garcia Hernandez, *Migrating to Prison*, Chapter 6: The Money
- Quiz 7 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Lectures: Introduction to U.S. Immigration Law, Immigration Enforcement, Undocumented Immigration, Immigration Update 2022
- Two weekly workshops (Immigration Enforcement and Collateral Consequences) - 2 points each
- Death Penalty Survey Discussion Board Post - 6 points

## **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.

<https://oai.gmu.edu/faculty-resource-center/preventative-resources/>

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 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](https://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, <http://ssac.gmu.edu/>) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380, <https://caps.gmu.edu/>). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu), <https://diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct>).

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.