Social Inequality, Crime & Justice - CRIM 307 DL 1
Asynchronous online course (Novak)
Fall 2022

Student hours: By appointment on Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate

About the Instructor
I am Instructional Associate 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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Grading Scale
I will not use the grades “D+” or “D-.”


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 (23 points each): 276 points
24 Weekly Workshops (1 point each): 24 points
1 Final Quiz: 40 points
Total: 340 points

Course Materials
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 posted on Blackboard.

These are the other readings (scanned readings are searchable and compliant with an optical reader):


Late Policy

You must take 12 weekly quizzes and 24 workshops this semester, plus a final quiz worth 40 points. 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. Because this course does not end in a final paper or project, it is not possible for me to give incompletes for missing work.

Course Schedule

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

**Week 1**: Tuesday, August 30, 2022: Introduction to Critical Criminology (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
- Reading: Cottom, "Dying to Be Competent"
- Lectures: Introduction to Critical Criminology, Ethical Policymaking
- Workshops: Introductory Workshop, Graffiti Workshop

**Week 2**: Tuesday, September 6, 2022: Myth of Colorblindness (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
- Reading: Davis, Ch. 1
- Lectures: Colorblind Legal System, Perceptions of Offenders
- Workshops: Correcting Historical Injustices, Careers in Criminal Justice Reform

**Week 3**: Tuesday, September 13, 2022: Overcriminalization (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
- Reading: Davis, Ch. 2
• Lectures: Choosing What to Criminalize, HIV Criminalization
• Workshops: Discretion, Environmental Justice

**Week 4:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022: Policing (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
• Reading: Gau and Jordan, "Profiling Trayvon"
• Lectures: Policing and Inequality, Policing (Part 2), Media Perceptions of Crime
• Workshops: Blue Lives Matter Laws, Gun Control Hypothetical

**Week 5:** Tuesday, September 27, 2022: Prosecution (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
• Reading: Davis, Ch. 3
• Lectures: Unequal Prosecution, Hate Crimes
• Workshops: Criminology Theory, Merger Doctrine

**Week 6:** Tuesday, October 4, 2022: In the Courtroom (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
• Reading: Davis, Ch. 4
• Lectures: In the Courtroom, Jury Selection
• Workshops: Pro Se Prisoner Petitions, Drug Courts

**Week 7:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022: Sentencing (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
• Reading: Davis, Ch. 5
• Lectures: Sentencing Disparities, Parole
• Workshops: LGBT Courtroom Issues, Community Confinement

**Week 8:** Tuesday, October 18, 2022: Mass Incarceration (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
• Reading: Davis, Ch. 6
• Lectures: Mass Incarceration, Prison Conditions
• Workshops: Angola Prison Louisiana, Solitary Confinement

**Week 9:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022: Collateral Consequences (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
• Reading: Schenwar and Law, "Your Home Is Your Prison"
• Lectures: Collateral Consequences, Civil Asset Forfeiture
• Workshops: Collateral Consequences, Parenting & Prison

**Week 10:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022: Death Penalty and Wrongful Convictions (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
• Reading: Mansnerus, "For What They Might Do"
• Lectures: Death Penalty, Wrongful Convictions
• Workshops: Wrongful Convictions, Pardons

**Week 11:** Tuesday, November 8, 2022: Immigration Enforcement and Detention (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)
• Reading: Garcia Hernandez, "The Money"
• Lectures: Intro to U.S. Immigration Law, Immigration Enforcement, Undocumented Immigration, Immigration Update
Workshops: Immigration Enforcement, Immigration Pardons

**Week 12:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022: Going Global / Juvenile Justice (Assignments due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Tomlinson, "The New War on Sex"
- Lectures: Going Global, Juvenile Justice
- Workshops: Gang Violence in Central America, Migration of Ideas

**Final Quiz:** Due Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 11:59 pm

**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/](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.

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