

**SYLLABUS**  
**Race, Crime and Justice (CRIJ 4303, Fall 2020)**  
**Online**

**Dr. Jennifer A. Schlosser, PhD**

**Instructor:** Dr. Schlosser

**Office Hours:** via email

**Email:** jennifer.schlosser@tamuct.edu

**Texts:** Walker, S., Spohn, C., Delone, M. (2017). *The Color of Justice: Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed, Cengage Learning.  
(REQUIRED...make sure you get the correct edition of this text)

Reiman, J. & Leighton, P. (1979) *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.)  
(RECOMMENDED)

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course examines racial profiling, immigration, the death penalty and other issues in the context of criminal justice practice. Provides current issues regarding the relationship between race and ethnicity and all components of the criminal justice system in the US.

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand how the issues of race in the criminal justice system
- Understand the history of race and crime in the United States
- Identify contemporary issues in the relationship between race and crime
- Be familiar with the primary sociological theories and methods in the study of race, crime, and justice

**Mode of instruction and course access:**

- . This course is 100% online and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. CANVAS is where you will find 100% of the information related to this course, including discussions, quizzes, and exams. Monitor CANVAS for announcements every day, not just on the days things are due/assigned, since due dates occasionally may change due to unforeseen circumstances (ex: network outage).
- . **Technology Requirements.** This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address) Password: Your MyCT password.

**Contacting your professor:**

You should contact me via email at [jennifer.schlosser@tamuct.edu](mailto:jennifer.schlosser@tamuct.edu). I check email every day, however, please allow up to 24 hours for a response though in most cases I will get back to you within an hour or so. I have many students in many different classes so I need to know your name and what class your in. I do not respond to emails that are not professional and courteous.

The best way to refer to your professor in email is: “Dear/Hello/Hi Dr. Schlosser, my name is,....., I am in your..... class, my question is,.....Thank you,/Sincerely,/Best,”

**Expectations and Conduct:**

- Students enrolled in this course are expected to complete all assignments, on time. They are expected to complete all assigned readings and assignments *before* the deadline and they are expected to be able to knowledgeably discuss the readings during class discussions.

*Class Discussion and Participation:*

- Students are *required* to be respectful of their classmates during the entirety of this course. Although many of you will disagree with one another and perhaps even be offended by some of the material we will cover, any personal attack against another student of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Because open discussions are encouraged, it is inevitable that personal beliefs and philosophies will be challenged, however, students *will not* use political leanings, religious beliefs, gender, race, class, ethnicity or sexuality as fodder for attack.
- Students can find in this syllabus a schedule of all topics and assignments that will be covered during the semester. Some of these topics may entail the use of explicit language, violence, sexuality or other potentially offensive material. If you feel that you will not be able to deal with this type of material, it is suggested that you drop the course now. Always remember that if you have questions or concerns, I am available for discussion.

**Drop Policy**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [[https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf)].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will

receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### Assignments and Grading:

#### 1. Discussions, 60 pts:

Students will engage in a discussion board with their classmates worth 5 points each for 12 weeks this semester.

#### **Grading Criteria:**

- Discussion boards will open at midnight on the Monday of the week they're due and close at 11:59 pm that next Sunday. All posts and replies must be completed within this window or the student forfeits those discussion points.
- You will post a question about something you DID NOT UNDERSTAND or would like more help on, from the week's readings or videos. Your question **must** use information from the material and be specific. Every post you make should be SEVERAL paragraphs (not just two or three sentences). **First posts are due by Thursday each week.**

#### Example question:

“On page 4, the authors state that public opinion on immigrants (especially illegal immigrants) is that they are more likely to commit crimes than natural-born American citizens. However, on page 24, the authors use data to show that immigrants are less crime prone, indicating that sociological studies have shown that in cities where immigration rates rose, crime rates actually dropped.

Lately there has been much debate in public media outlets and politics about the need to build a border wall as a way to keep Mexican immigrants from entering our country. In fact, our government was recently shut down while politicians debated this issue. One of the main justifications for building the wall is based on the public perception that immigrants increase crime rates. Given that the scientific evidence shows otherwise, what would you say is the main reason for the spread of this misinformation? What are the social and political consequences of this? Can someone please help explain the data presented on page 24 to me and why it differs from public opinion?”

- Students will read others' posts and must reply to at least **one** other person's posts that week (but feel free to respond to more). **Responses are due by 11:59 pm on Sunday each week.**
- Responses must be engaging, thoughtful, and in-depth (again, several paragraphs, not just 1 or 2 sentences). Address the question that was asked and answer it using your own ideas. However, these responses aren't JUST your opinions, they must also be grounded in the readings **with page numbers citing your sources.**

- Personal experiences that support your answer are totally acceptable! ***Just make sure that the bulk of your answer is grounded in facts and data from the book.***

Examples of INAPPROPRIATE discussion board responses:

“I disagree. I think immigrants bring crime to the US.”

“Good question! I agree!”

“The government sucks.”

Examples of GOOD discussion board responses:

“Great question, Bob! Since we saw from the text (p. 24) that several studies have shown that immigrants do not bring more crime to the US, we have to consider that perhaps the reason why people still want a border wall is that they haven’t been educated about these studies. It’s also possible that old stereotypes about certain races, which have historically been used to discriminate against them for decades, are still alive and well. Maybe the people who want a wall are still using those old stereotypes. Some may not even realize they’re doing it, but these tactics have been used to keep minority groups oppressed for years. As a first-generation, minority student myself, I can tell you that I’ve encountered some of these same stereotypes. For example, last week...”

**\*there is no partial credit – you must complete all the required elements (1 original post by Thursday and 1 response post by Sunday, several paragraphs with page numbers cited), or receive no points.**

**\*Note: use my comments and feedback on your Discussions for what to do differently next time, as a way to improve your grade for the following week.**

## **2. Test #1, 100 pts:**

The first exam will be comprised of 50 questions worth 2 points each. It will consist of multiple choice and true/false. The first test is subject to cover ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING discussed in the assigned readings, lecture, videos or supplemental assignments you may receive since the first day of class. Thus, everything is game.

No student will be awarded a make-up test FOR ANY REASON other than for a **documented** University sanctioned activity provided the student informs the instructor PRIOR to the missed test AND provides proper and adequate documentation.

## **3. Test #2, 100 pts:**

Test two is NOT comprehensive; however, you will need to be familiar with topics and concepts discussed before mid-semester so you have a strong foundation for answering questions on the final. It will be the same format as the first test (50, 2 pt questions). The final may cover ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING

discussed in class, in the assigned readings, in lecture or supplemental assignments you may receive since the first test.

No student will be awarded a make-up test FOR ANY REASON other than for a **documented** University sanctioned activity provided the student informs the instructor PRIOR to the missed test AND provides proper and adequate documentation.

#### 4. Final Project, Visual Sociology 40 pts:

Students will choose one topic, concept, issue or theory discussed this semester and complete a Visual Sociology project. They will create a PowerPoint using images that illustrate that concept and upload the final PowerPoint as a .ppt file to Canvas by the due date listed on the syllabus.

##### **Grading Criteria:**

Each PowerPoint project will consist of FIVE slides ONLY (no more, no less)

- **The first slide will include:** your name, the name of the class, and the name of concept or theory you chose (or some type of title indicating what your project is about).
- **The second slide will include:** the name of the concept/theory you chose, its definition (with book citations) and sentence or two about why this is an important concept to you.
- **The third slide will include:** at least one screenshot of an image from a **NEWS SOURCE** that represents the concept you chose. For instance, if your concept is crime and immigration, you will go to a reputable news source (i.e. not InfoWars or Buzzfeed News) and find an image that represents immigration and crime. You'll screenshot it so that I can see the source and insert it into Slide 3 on your PowerPoint (more than one is fine, but there must be at least one image). Then, you'll write at least a paragraph, on that slide, explaining why this image (or images) represents the concept in relation to the definition.
- **The fourth slide will include:** at least one screenshot of an image from **SOCIAL MEDIA** that represents the concept you chose (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.). You'll screenshot it so that I can see the source and insert it into Slide 4 on your PowerPoint (more than one is fine, but there must be at least one image). Then, you'll write at least a paragraph, on that slide, explaining why this image (or images) represents the concept in relation to the definition.

- **The fifth slide will include:** an image **YOU TOOK YOURSELF** that represents the concept you chose. This will be a photo you actually took somewhere around town that represents the concept. For instance, this could be a picture of a bumper sticker, a sign, a building, a business, etc. Then, you'll write at least a paragraph, on that slide, explaining why this image (or images) represents the concept in relation to the definition.

\*Note: screenshots are important here. Do simply right click and save an image. Take an actual screenshot for your news or social media image so I can see the context and source. If you don't know how to take a screenshot, Google it.

No student will be awarded an extension FOR ANY REASON other than for a **documented** University sanctioned activity provided the student informs the instructor PRIOR to the missed deadline AND provides proper and adequate documentation. ALL other requests (including but not limited to: funerals, illnesses, weddings, arrests, jury duty, court dates, family vacations, hangovers) *will be denied without discussion.*

**Grading:**

There are a **total of 300 points** available in this class. Final grades will be calculated depending on all points you've acquired on all assignments. All points will be added together and divided by 300 to get a percentage. I do not grade on a curve so the final percentage is your final grade. The scale below shows the percentage to letter grade comparison. If the third decimal place in the final percentage is a 5 or greater, **AND** the percentage is on the cusp of going up a letter grade, I will round up. For example, if your final percentage is .89533 (89%, B), because the third decimal place is a 5 **AND** the grade is on the verge of going up a letter, I will round up and your final grade for the class would become an A. These are the only conditions under which I will increase a final grade; all other requests will be denied.

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

- By remaining enrolled in this course and after having read the syllabus, you agree that you understand all the terms and conditions expressed therein. If you have ANY questions or concerns please feel free to contact me any time.
- **Disability Statement:** If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

- Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

**Schedule:**

**Each of the 16 weeks corresponds with a matching module on Canvas where you will upload your work and complete discussion boards.**

<b>WEEK ONE:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Aug 24-30</b>	Chapter 1: Race, Ethnicity and Crime pp. 1-35  Watch: "The Deadly Deception: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment"	Discussion 1  Things to keep in mind: is race biological or social? What is the difference between bias and discrimination? Can the government engage in criminal activity? What is conflict theory?

<b>WEEK TWO:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Aug 31- Sept 6</b>	Chapter 2: Victims and Offenders pp. 44-64  TED Talk: Renee Mitchell	Discussion 2

<b>WEEK THREE:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Sept 7-13</b>	Chapter 2 cont... pp. 64-87	Discussion 3  Things to keep in mind: What is the NCVS? Pros, cons? Which race is more likely to commit which types of

		crime? Are victims of the same crime, but of different races treated differently?
--	--	---

<b>WEEK FOUR:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Sept 14-20</b>	Chapter 3: Race, Ethnicity, Social Structure, and Crime pp. 113-127	Discussion 4

<b>WEEK FIVE:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Sept 21-27</b>	Chapter 3 cont... pp. 131-142 Watch: PBS Documentary "Park Ave."	Discussion 5  Things to keep in mind: What does social class have to do with race? Does the neighborhood you live in matter for your chances of committing a crime? Which theories best explain race and crime?

<b>WEEK SIX:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Sept 28-Oct 4</b>	Chapter 4: Justice on the Street? The Police and People of Color pp.151-175  Watch: L.A. Riots Documentary	Discussion 6  Things to keep in mind: What happened to Rodney King and what impact has it had on police and minority relations? What is racial profiling?

<b>WEEK SEVEN:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Oct 5-11</b>	Chapter 4 cont... pp. 176-186  TED Talk: Megan Ming Francis	Test Review Discussion  Your chance to ask questions of your classmates and me about the material so far. You must post and respond.

<b>WEEK EIGHT:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Oct 12-18</b>	Review all readings	Test 1

<b>WEEK NINE:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Oct 19-25</b>	Watch “13 <sup>th</sup> ”	Discussion 7

<b>WEEK TEN:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Oct 26-Nov 1</b>	<p>Chapter 5: The Courts pp. 198-239</p> <p>Chapter 6: Justice on the Bench? Trial and Adjudication in Criminal Court pp. 251-279</p> <p>Watch: the documentary “The Central Park Five”</p>	<p>Discussion 8</p> <p>Things to keep in mind: Is there evidence that the courts treat minorities differently? How does social class come into play?</p>

<b>WEEK ELEVEN:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Nov 2-8</b>	<p>Chapter 7: Race and Sentencing pp. 293-327</p>	<p>Discussion 9</p> <p>Things to keep in mind: what are 5 explanations for racial disparity in sentencing? What are some factors that make you more likely to be sentenced harshly?</p>

<b>WEEK TWELVE:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Nov 9-15</b>	<p>Chapter 7 cont... pp. 327-347</p>	Discussion 10

<b>WEEK THIRTEEN:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Nov 16-22</b>	Chapter 9: Corrections in America pp. 419-434	Discussion 11  Things you may want to consider: based on the data, why is there a disproportionate number of minorities in prison?

<b>WEEK FOURTEEN:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Nov 23-29</b>	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING BREAK

<b>WEEK FIFTEEN:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Nov 30-Dec 6</b>	Chapter 9 cont... pp. 434-454  Chapter 11: The Color of Justice pp. 511-516	Discussion 12  Your chance to ask questions of your classmates and me about the material. You must post and respond.

<b>WEEK SIXTEEN:</b>	<b>READINGS TO DO:</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b>
<b>Dec 7-11</b>	Review all readings since Test 1	Final Projects Due  Test 2 (due by midnight on December 11)

## FAQs

### 1. What should I call you?

I received my PhD from the University of Missouri many years ago, so you should call me Dr. Schlosser. Lots of students also call me Dr. S, which is just fine, too!

### 2. What should I do if I have questions?

You should look at the syllabus. MOST questions you have are probably already addressed on the syllabus. However, if you do have other questions, you can email me.

**3. If I want to email you, how should I address it?**

When you email any professor, the correct way to do so is to address them professionally. For instance, you can say: “Dear Dr. Schlosser,” or even just “Hi, Dr. Schlosser,” Then, state what class you are in (I have many students in several classes) and your specific question. Close the email with your name and contact information. I tend not to respond to emails that are not courteous and professional.

**4. What if I have to miss a deadline?**

Seriously rethink the event that will cause you to miss a deadline. I do not allow make-ups for any reason other than documented, University activities. You have a full week to complete assignments, so if you think you’re going to be out of town or not have access to a computer on the due date, simply turn it in early.

**5. What if I’m confused or struggling with the class?**

Email me!!!! Do this EARLY and OFTEN. I can help you understand the material, organize your notes, and give you study tips. You are responsible for your grade, but that also means you need to inform me if you’re struggling so we can address issues you may be having early.  
[jennifer.schlosser@tamuct.edu](mailto:jennifer.schlosser@tamuct.edu)