

SYLLABUS
Race, Crime and Justice (CRIJ 4303, Fall 2022)
Online

Dr. Jennifer A. Schlosser, PhD

Instructor: Dr. Schlosser

Office Hours: via email (*see page 2 of this document)

Email: jennifer.schlosser@tamuct.edu

Texts: Walker, S., Spohn, C., Delone, M. (2017). *The Color of Justice: Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America*. 6th 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* (9th 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.
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Contacting your professor:

You should contact me via email at 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].

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:

There are 6 assignments for this class. Four essays, and two tests.

Essays, 100 pts:

Throughout the course of the semester, you will write 4 (four) short essays. Two will be original, and two will be responses. Each essay will be worth 25 points.

1) Essay #1: Original, due Sunday, September 11th

For this essay, please adhere to the following requirements.

- A. Your essay must be at least 400 words
- B. Your essay must discuss a specific concept, theory, or idea that you learned about in any of the chapters you were required to read (for instance, your essay could be about victimization, policing, conflict theory, disproportionate arrest statistics, etc.).
- C. You must state at the beginning of the essay what concept, theory, or idea from the book you will be discussing.
- D. You will provide an in-depth discussion of the concept you chose by explaining what it is, how it relates to real-world examples, how you have encountered (or not encountered) it, and why it's an important concept to you/ society.
- E. You must include **specific page numbers** from the book throughout your essay.
- F. **NO DIRECT QUOTES** may be used. If you paraphrase from the book, it must be your own words and you must **INCLUDE PAGE NUMBERS**.
- G. You will **ask a question** at the **END** of your essay regarding something from the essay that you would like to learn about further or would like more in-depth information on. The question must be thorough, comprehensive, and something that can be researched. For instance, a good question on an essay you wrote about women in the military might be: "How are states beginning to prosecute people who make false crime reports when they call the police on people of color for doing ordinary activities like shopping or grilling in a park?"
- H. 12 pt font, Times New Roman, 1" margins around, 400 words minimum. Put "Essay 1" or "Essay 2" at the top. Upload to the dropbox by midnight on the due date as a **WORD DOCUMENT ONLY**. No pdf or other file types, please.

2) Response #1, due Sunday, October 2nd

You will write a response to the question you posed in your Original Essay #1.

- A. Your essay must be at least 300 words
- B. In the same Word document you used for your Essay #1, write your response **ABOVE** the original essay.

- C. Re-state the question you asked at the end of your original essay at the beginning of your response.
- D. Use outside resources to answer the question.
- E. The **only** acceptable outside resources are ones that come from government websites (.gov), academic sources (.edu), or the websites of non-profit groups or organizations that do work on the concept you're researching. NO Wikipedia, social media, news stories, blogs, opinion pieces, magazines, etc. may be used.
- F. Be sure your answer is in-depth, specific, and adequately describes what you found with in-text citations.
- G. Do not simply copy and paste sentences from a website or source, paraphrase it **in your own words** and use in-text citations in parentheses at the end of the paraphrased section.
- H. Provide your references at the end of your response essay – any citation format is fine, just keep it consistent, and include links to websites.
- I. 12 pt font, Times New Roman, 1" margins around, 300 words minimum. Put "Response 1" or "Response 2" at the top. Upload to the dropbox by midnight on the due date on the **SAME WORD DOCUMENT as your original essay**. No pdf or other file types, please.

3) Essay #2: Original, due Sunday, October 30th

*see the requirements for Essay #1 Original. Choose a different topic, all else is the same.

4) Response #2, due Sunday, November 13th

*see the requirements for Response #1. Use the same Word doc that you used for Essay #2.

1. 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, 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.

2. 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, 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.

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.

WEEK ONE:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Aug 22-28	Chapter 1: Race, Ethnicity and Crime pp. 1-35	Discussion Board: Self Introductions (0 points – just say hi!)

WEEK TWO:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Aug 29-Sept 4	Chapter 2: Victims and Offenders pp. 44-64 TED Talk: Renee Mitchell	

WEEK THREE:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Sept 5-11	Chapter 2 cont... pp. 64-87	Essay #1 Original due (25 pts)

WEEK FOUR:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Sept 12-18	Chapter 3: Race, Ethnicity, Social Structure, and Crime pp. 113-127	

WEEK FIVE:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Sept 19-25	Chapter 3 cont... pp. 131-142 Watch: PBS Documentary “Park Ave.”	

WEEK SIX:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Sept 26-Oct 2	Chapter 4: Justice on the Street? The Police and People of Color pp.151-175	Response #1 due (25 pts)

WEEK SEVEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Oct 3-9	Chapter 4 cont... pp. 176-186 TED Talk: Megan Ming Francis	Discussion Board Test Review

WEEK EIGHT:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Oct 10-16	Review all readings	Test 1 (100 pts)

WEEK NINE:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Oct 17-23	Chapter 5: The Courts pp. 198-239	

WEEK TEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Oct 24-30	Chapter 6: Justice on the Bench? Trial and Adjudication in Criminal Court pp. 251-279	Essay #2 Original due (25 pts)

WEEK ELEVEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Oct 31-Nov 6	Chapter 7: Race and Sentencing pp. 293-327 Watch: the documentary "The Central Park Five"	

WEEK TWELVE:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Nov 7-13	Chapter 7 cont... pp. 327-347	Response #2 due (25 pts)

WEEK THIRTEEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Nov 14-20	Chapter 9: Corrections in America pp. 419-454 Watch "13 th " documentary	

WEEK FOURTEEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Nov 21-27	NO CLASS	NO CLASS

WEEK FIFTEEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Nov 28-Dec 4	Chapter 11: The Color of Justice pp. 511-516	Discussion Board Test Review

WEEK SIXTEEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Dec 5-9	Review all readings since Test 1	Test 2 (100 pts, due by midnight on FRIDAY Dec 9th) *note the short week*

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.

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