



**Credit Hours:** 3

**Contact Hours:** This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

**Faculty Information:** Faculty contact information and office hours can be found on the faculty profile page.

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class is an examination of the impact of race, social class, and crime on the justice system, the occurrence of crime, and punishment. The course interrogates the question: “Does skin color influence justice in America?” Students learn race and class as social constructs and explore them in relationship to crime rates, their impact on society and communities through law enforcement practice, incarceration, sentencing policies, as well as the economic and political systems. This course will examine the role of implicit bias in the criminal justice system.

### **COURSE OVERVIEW:**

This class examines key components of theories and research as they relate to race, social class, and crime in America. Topics include the influence of race and social class on attitudes, values, perceptions, behaviors, and interpersonal relations. The student will analyze the social construct of differences and inequality and the role of race and class in relation to criminal behavior and the unique challenges in addressing this area.

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Evaluate issues related to minority involvement in criminal justice system.
2. Describe the media’s influence on society’s perceptions of minorities.
3. Assess the roles of race, ethnicity, and class in criminal behavior.
4. Analyze how criminal justice policy is shaped by race and crime issues.
5. Discuss the multicultural nature of society and how this impacts the justice system.
6. Determine the role bias plays in disproportionate minority contact.

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## **PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE**

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Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

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## COURSE MATERIALS

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### Required:

Walker, S., Spohn, C., & DeLone, M. (2018). *The color of justice: Race, ethnicity, and crime in America* (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1337091862

**NOTE:** All non-textbook required readings and materials necessary to complete assignments, discussions, and/or supplemental or required exercises are provided within the course itself. Please read through each course module carefully.

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

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### Due Dates

The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- **Discussion Boards:** The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and peer responses posted by Sunday 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- **Opening Exercises:** Take the Opening Exercise before reading each week's content to see which areas you will need to focus on. You may take these exercises as many times as you need. The Opening Exercises will not affect your final grade.
- **Mastery Exercises:** Students may access and retake Mastery Exercises through the last day of class until they achieve the scores they desire.
- **Critical Thinking:** Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.

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## WEEKLY READING AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

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### MODULE 1

#### Readings

- Chapters 1 & 11 in *The Color of Justice*.
- Omi, M., & Winant, H. (2016). Blinded by sight: The racial body and the origins of the social construction of race. *Law & Social Inquiry*, 41(4), 1062-1068. doi:10.1111/lsi.12244

#### Opening Exercise (0 points)

#### Discussion (25 points)

#### Mastery Exercise (10 points)

### MODULE 2

#### Readings

- Chapter 2 in *The Color of Justice*.

### **Opening Exercise (0 points)**

### **Discussion (25 points)**

### **Mastery Exercise (10 points)**

### **Critical Thinking (70 points)**

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do *not* complete both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission. Note that, while there are two options for the Critical Thinking Assignment, there is only one rubric. Review the rubric to confirm you are meeting the assignment requirements.

#### **Option #1: Analyzing Media Coverage of Race & Social Class**

Monitor the *Washington Post* online for a minimum of two days. You will monitor the news for the Local section. Click <http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/crime>.

Document the following:

1. The number of crime stories presented, by category (violent vs. property)
2. If identifiable, the race/ethnicity and social class of the offender(s)
3. If identifiable, the race/ethnicity, and social class of the victim(s).

Assess whether the crime coverage had biased or discriminative implications against a social group or social class. Discuss whether you believe the media coverage of crime that you monitored accurately reflects crime that is occurring, and defend your answer. For the purpose of the assignment, you are to follow all crime coverage during the observation period. Describe the way the newspaper has been reporting the crime. In your paper, identify the dates on which you monitored *Washington Post* coverage of crime.

Your paper should be three to four pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of three credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

#### **Option #2: Hate Crimes**

In an essay, discuss the following: Should hate be a crime? What arguments can be made to support the use of sentencing enhancement penalties for hate crimes? What arguments can be made to oppose such statutes? Are hate-crime laws likely to deter offenders and reduce crime?

Your paper should be three to four pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of three credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

## **MODULE 3**

### **Readings**

- Chapter 3 in *The Color of Justice*.

**Opening Exercise (0 points)****Discussion (25 points)****Mastery Exercise (10 points)****Critical Thinking (75 points)**

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do *not* complete both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission. Note that, while there are two options for the Critical Thinking Assignment, there is only one rubric. Review the rubric to confirm you are meeting the assignment requirements.

**Option #1: Social Class and Crime Relationship**

In an essay, describe how a person's socio-economic status relates to crime, paying attention to whether that relationship is observable at the individual and/ or the group level. Include in your essay a theoretical explanation for the relationship, choosing one of the theories discussed in the readings this week.

Your paper should be three to four pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of three credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

**Option #2: Impact of Civil Rights Movement on Socio-economic Conditions Affecting Crime**

In an essay, discuss the impact of the civil rights movement on social and economic conditions that affect crime and criminal justice. Include in your essay a brief history of the civil rights movement and provide a comparison between races based on economic levels.

Your paper should be three to four pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of three credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

**Portfolio Project Milestone (25 points)**

Submit your Portfolio Topic to your instructor for preliminary approval. Provide reasons for your choice. Your submission should contain no more than one page of content, be framed by a cover page and references page, and include key points you wish to include in your final project. This assignment is required and is worth 25 points.

Format your text and references according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*.

**MODULE 4****Readings**

- Chapter 4 in *The Color of Justice*.

**Opening Exercise (0 points)****Discussion (25 points)****Mastery Exercise (10 points)****Critical Thinking (75 points)**

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do *not* complete both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission. Note that, while there are two options for the Critical Thinking Assignment, there is only one rubric. Review the rubric to confirm you are meeting the assignment requirements.

**Option #1: Case Study: Examining Race, Ethnicity and Social Class**

Review profiles of cases received by the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board web site at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ccrb/mediation/mediation-case-profiles.page>

Choose one case to examine that involves a racial or social class component or connection to the crime. In your essay, briefly describe the case and describe how the case demonstrates the role of race, ethnicity, and/or social class in criminal behavior, either as the offender or victim, and societal reaction and response to crime.

Your paper should be three to four pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of three credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

**Option #2: Review Stop-and-Frisk Reforms**

Review the reforms that have taken place regarding New York Police Department's stop-and-frisk program and the positive and negative effects on the minority communities. Include in your discussion the objections to the policy changes as well as the negative long-term psychological or social effects this practice had on a generation of young black and Latino men.

Review the following articles before preparing your essay.

Goldstein, J. (2013, January 8). Police stop-and-frisk program in Bronx is ruled unconstitutional. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/09/nyregion/judge-limits-nypd-stop-and-frisk-program-in-bronx.html>

Goff, P. A. (2018, January 7). On stop-and-frisk, we can't celebrate just yet. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/07/opinion/stop-and-frisk-celebrate.html>

Borchetta, J., Charney, D, & Harris, A. (2018, April 10). Don't let the police wreck stop-and-frisk reforms. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/10/opinion/police-stop-and-frisk-reforms.html>

Your paper should be three to four pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of three credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

## MODULE 5

### Readings

- Chapters 5 & 6 in *The Color of Justice*.

### Opening Exercise (0 points)

## **Discussion (25 points)**

### **Mastery Exercise (10 points)**

### **Critical Thinking (75 points)**

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do *not* complete both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission. Note that, while there are two options for the Critical Thinking Assignment, there is only one rubric. Review the rubric to confirm you are meeting the assignment requirements.

#### **Option #1: Legal Representation**

Researchers have raised questions about the quality of legal representation provided to the poor. They also have suggested that racial minorities, who are more likely than whites to be poor, are particularly disadvantaged. Discuss the following questions:

- Is this necessarily the case?
- Are racial minorities represented by public defenders or assigned counsel treated more harshly than those represented by private attorneys?
- If you were an African American, Hispanic, or Native American defendant and could choose whether to be represented by a public defender or a private attorney, which would you choose? Why?

Your paper should be three to four pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of three credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

#### **Option #2: Racial Criteria for Juries**

The Supreme Court has repeatedly asserted that a defendant is not entitled to a jury composed in whole or in part of persons of his own race. Although these rulings establish that states are not *obligated* to use racially mixed juries, they do not *prohibit* states from doing so. In fact, a number of policymakers and legal scholars have proposed reforms that use racial criteria to promote racial diversity on American juries. Some have suggested that the names of majority race jurors be removed from the jury list (thus ensuring a larger proportion of racial minorities); others have suggested that a certain number of seats on each jury be set aside for racial minorities.

Discuss how would you justify these reforms to a state legislature? How would an opponent of these reforms respond? Overall, are these good ideas or bad ideas?

Your paper should be three to four pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of three credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

## **Portfolio Project Milestone (25 points)**

### **Portfolio Outline**

Submit an outline of your Portfolio Project.

- State your project topic.

- Provide an outline of your project.
  - Your outline should include headers (the major topics), major resources, and the intended flow of the information in the project.
  - Under each header, write a few sentences describing what you think you might cover in that section.
- Provide three articles that you might consider using for your final Portfolio Project. At least two of these must be academic, scholarly sources in addition to the course text and course readings.
- Give a short reason why you feel each source would be pertinent to your project. This is not expected to be a final list. The goal here is to motivate you to begin examining research that might help you in your final Portfolio Project.

## MODULE 6

### Readings

- Chapters 7 & 8 in *The Color of Justice*.

### Opening Exercise (0 points)

### Discussion (25 points)

### Mastery Exercise (10 points)

### Critical Thinking (75 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do *not* complete both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission. Note that, while there are two options for the Critical Thinking Assignment, there is only one rubric. Review the rubric to confirm you are meeting the assignment requirements.

#### Option #1: Racial Disparity in Sentencing

Carefully consider the following questions: Why is evidence of racial disparity in sentencing not necessarily evidence of racial discrimination in sentencing? What are the alternative explanations? Which of these explanations is most convincing? Do you agree or disagree with the argument that crime seriousness and prior criminal record are not necessarily legally relevant variables?

Your paper should be three to four pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of three credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

#### Option #2: Racial Discrimination and the Death Penalty

In the case of the Martinsville Seven, a series of state and federal court rulings rejected the defendants' allegations regarding racial discrimination in the application of the death penalty. Judge Doubles, for instance, ruled that there was no evidence of racial discrimination in the actions of the six juries that sentenced the seven men to death. In *McCleskey v. Kemp*, the U.S. Supreme Court similarly ruled that the "The generalized statistics of the Baldus study failed to raise an inference that McCleskey was discriminated against on the basis of his race or the race of the victim" (*McCleskey v. Kemp*, 1986).

Assume that you are the lawyer representing an African American offender who has been sentenced to death. What types of evidence would you need to convince the appellate courts that decision makers in your client's case had "acted with discriminatory purpose"? Is it realistic to assume that any offender can meet this burden of proof?

Your paper should be three to four pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of three credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

## MODULE 7

### Readings

- Chapter 9 in *The Color of Justice*.

### Opening Exercise (0 points)

### Discussion (25 points)

### Mastery Exercise (10 points)

## MODULE 8

### Readings

- Chapter 10 in *The Color of Justice*.
- The Sentencing Project. (2018, April). Report to the United Nations on racial disparities in the U.S. Criminal Justice System. Retrieved from <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/un-report-on-racial-disparities/>.

### Opening Exercise (0 points)

### Discussion (25 points)

### Mastery Exercise (10 points)

### Portfolio Project (300 points)

Choose one of the following two Portfolio Projects to complete. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission. Review the Portfolio Project grading rubric to understand how you'll be graded on your project.

#### **Portfolio Project Option #1: Reform in the Criminal Justice System**

Select two policies, procedures, or laws that are examined in our text and that you believe **currently contribute** to one or more of the following:

- Discrimination or disparity in the criminal justice system
- Minority involvement in the criminal justice system
- The relationship between policy, race and crime
- A negative impact on society
- Societal diversity in the justice system.

Your two chosen policies, procedures, or laws do not have to contribute to the same issue. Then, using your knowledge from each of the previous modules, provide a detailed analysis of the policies, procedures, or laws you selected in the context of race, class and crime.

Your Portfolio Project should contain the following elements:

- Introduction to the reform(s) you recommend
- Description of the policy or policies you wish to reform
- Explanation of why you believe the reform(s) are necessary -- why did you select the reform(s) you did? What are the legal, political, and societal implications of reform(s)?
- Description of the reform(s).
- Implementation – how will the reform(s) you recommend be implemented and why will they be successful?
- Conclusion.

Your paper should be six to eight pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of six credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

### **Portfolio Project Option #2: Race, Culture, and Crime Incident Project**

For this project option, choose a recent incident or series of incidents in your local area, state, or across the nation in which race, gender, or culture was thought to be a factor in how the criminal justice system dealt with the issue. As much as possible, try to confine your selection to a local incident or incidents. If none are available in your region, you can select an incident in the national arena.

You are to imagine that you are a criminal justice consultant who has been asked by local leadership to research the case and propose a set of strategies or interventions to prevent such an incident from taking place again. Note that you are not expected to investigate the case nor determine who is right or wrong in their actions. You are required to put your emotions aside. Within your project, you are expected to deal with such factors as the reactions of the local community, appropriate governmental agency, and/or criminal justice agencies or institutions, if applicable, and the reaction of the media. Finally, you are expected to apply concepts and theories studied in this course to your analysis of the event(s), reactions to the event(s), and your recommendations.

Your Portfolio Project should contain the following elements:

- Introduction
- Evaluate the influence of race and culture on criminal justice policies and outcomes.
- Analyze race and culture within American society.
- Analyze the criminal justice system in a community.
- Design a solution to improve the relationship among culturally diverse groups and the criminal justice agencies.
- Conclusion.

Your portfolio project paper should be six to eight pages in length (excluding cover page and references) and formatted according to the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research. You must include a minimum of six credible, academic or professional references beyond the text or other course materials. Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

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## COURSE POLICIES

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### Course Grading

20% Discussion Participation  
0% Opening Exercises  
8% Mastery Exercises  
37% Critical Thinking Assignments  
35% Portfolio Project & Milestones

Grading Scale	
A	95.0 – 100
A-	90.0 – 94.9
B+	86.7 – 89.9
B	83.3 – 86.6
B-	80.0 – 83.2
C+	75.0 – 79.9
C	70.0 – 74.9
D	60.0 – 69.9
F	59.9 or below

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## IN-CLASSROOM POLICIES

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For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our [In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines](#) or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing /repurposing your own work (see *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements* for percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and Internet resources.

### **Citing Sources with APA Style**

All students are expected to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA when citing in APA (based on the most recent APA style manual) for all assignments. A link to this guide should also be provided within most assignment descriptions in your course.

### **Disability Services Statement**

CSU-Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email [ada@CSUGlobal.edu](mailto:ada@CSUGlobal.edu) for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

### **Netiquette**

Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults, or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature; and the unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.