

## **SOCI220: Cultural Issues and the Criminal Justice System**

### **College of Graduate and Continuing Studies, Norwich University**

[Print This Page](#)

---

#### **Course Description**

##### **SOCI220: SOCI 220 Cultural Issues and the Criminal Justice System - 3 credits**

This course explores the issues of race and ethnicity as it relates to crime and our criminal justice system in a culturally diverse society. The student will examine the broader social context of race and ethnicity in our American society with a special focus on the changing ethnicity of communities and related changes in social and institutional public policy. Then the student progresses into the different components to learn how cultural diversity impacts the role of police, our court system, correctional facilities, influences the death penalty, and affects juvenile & minority youth justice. Also discussed is cross-cultural communication, implementing cultural awareness training, multicultural representation in law enforcement, and criminal justice interaction. 3 lecture hours.

Pre-requisites: none.

#### **Learning Goals and Outcomes**

On completion of the course, students will:

- Analyze and articulate the impact of race and ethnicity on law, crime, public, and social policy in the American criminal justice system.
- Develop an understanding of the impact of cultural diversity on the police, courts, correctional, and juvenile justice systems in the United States.
- Demonstrate the ability to use best practices in cross-cultural awareness, interaction, and communication in the American criminal justice environment.
- Develop an awareness of the many differences, hurdles, and privileges faced by groups of people in American society, including groups that do not share a cultural or racial background.

#### **Teaching and Learning Strategies and Methods of Evaluation**

You will be provided a weekly commentary/lecture and have [required readings](#) and discussion assignments. There will be a number of written assignments and exercises, which are explained thoroughly in the list of assignments. A total of 1000 points are available in the course distributed across the components listed below, with both points and percent of final grade indicated.

As a student in this course, you have a number of responsibilities that will affect the level of learning you achieve. These responsibilities include: 1) working actively to create a challenging and useful learning experience for yourself, your discussion group and the class as a whole; 2) encouraging and supporting the learning of each member of the class; 3) preparing and participating fully in discussions as well as group and/or class activities; and 4) completing all assigned work on time or making prior arrangements if an absence of late submission is unavailable. In this course you have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that will help you become effective, confident and focused in your learning.

**Weights (%)**

<b>Assignments/Activities/Papers</b>	<b>Total Points</b>	
Weekly Discussions: 8 at 50 points each	400 points	40%
Written Assignment: Cultural Challenges Essay	100 points	10%
Written Assignment: Perceptions v. Reality in Criminal Justice	100 points	10%
Final Research Paper: Relevant Changes to U.S. Laws and Policies DRAFT	200 points	20%
Final Research Paper: Relevant Changes to U.S. Laws and Policies FINAL	200 points	20%

Final grade points will be assigned on the following basis:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade Point</b>
A	93–100%	4.0
A -	90-92.9%	3.7
B +	87-89.9%	3.3
B	83-86.9%	3.0
B -	80-82.9%	2.7
C +	77-79.9%	2.3
C	75-76.9%	2.0
C -	73-74.9%	1.7
D +	70-72.9%	1.3
D	67-69.9%	1.0
D -	63-66.9%	0.7
F	Below 63.0%	0.0

For complete information on the Grading Policy, please refer to the [CGCS Online Catalog](#).

All writing for this seminar must follow the APA writing style. All writing for this seminar must follow APA guidelines for formatting and citation, which can be found at [The Purdue Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#). Grading rubrics for assignments and discussions are provided from the [Grading Guidelines and Rubrics](#) link.

**Required Textbooks**

Textbook for this course:

- CJ Collective. (2017). Investigating Difference: Human and Cultural Relations in Criminal Justice (3rd ed.). Pearson. Print ISBN: 9780133012309 Digital ISBN: 9780134558936

See **Required Reading** list for additional seminar readings.

**Discussion Groups**

In this course, you will be assigned to a small discussion group. Each week your group will discuss one or two questions, most of which will be graded. The quality of your posts and those of your fellow students will create a lively discussion and ensure that a high level of learning occurs. You are expected to contribute at least three posts to each question every week. Your first post should be substantive (approximately 200-300 words) and it should be made by Wednesday at the latest. It should answer the question using your own experience, if appropriate, and, very importantly, it should refer to the readings of that week, using correct citations. Your second two posts should be responses to posts of your fellow group members. Responses such as, "Good point," or, "I agree," are not sufficient. Your response posts should be substantive –ask questions, point out additional thoughts, etc. Disagreement and critical feedback are part of an academic classroom, as is respect for the diversity of opinion. For more information about what is expected in regard to discussion postings, please refer to the [Grading Guidelines and Rubrics](#) section of your classroom for **Rules** and **Grading on Discussions**.

### [Late Work](#)

It is important that writing assignments and discussion posts be completed on time. Extensions of deadlines will be given only for serious extenuating circumstances. In the absence of such extensions, assignments may be downgraded for lateness at the discretion of the instructor.

### [Academic Honesty and the Norwich University Honor Code](#)

A student must submit work that represents the student's own original analysis and writing. Copying another's work is not appropriate. If the student relies on the research or writing of others, the student must cite those sources. Words or ideas that require citations include, but are not limited to all hardcopy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. While students are encouraged to seek editing feedback, extensive revisions of one's work by another person is considered a lack of academic honesty, as it is representing another student's work as one's own.

For more information see:

[Academic Dishonesty](#)

[Academic Integrity](#)

[Norwich University Honor Code](#)

### [Copyright Notice](#)

The content of this seminar contains material used in compliance with the U.S. Copyright Law, including the TEACH Act and principles of "fair use." Materials may not be downloaded, saved, revised, copied, printed or distributed without permission other than as specified to complete seminar assignments. Use of these materials is limited to class members for the duration of the seminar only.

### [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/ADA](#)

Please consult [Appendix H: University Policy - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) for instructions on obtaining an accommodation.

---

Disclaimer: Please note the specifics of this Course Syllabus are subject to change. Students are responsible for abiding by any such changes. Your instructor will notify you of any changes.