

Course Numbers: CCJ 4934/SYA 4930

Instructor: Brenden Beck, PhD (brenden.beck@ufl.edu)

Times and Locations: Tuesdays 7 (1:55pm to 2:45pm), Turlington 2333
and Thursdays 7-8 (1:55pm to 3:35pm), Turlington 2346

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:00pm – 5:00pm or by appointment

Office: Turlington 3356

Race & Policing, Spring 2020

Course Description

Welcome! In this course we will ask: Do police treat people of different races and ethnicities differently? If so, what can account for such variation? Racial bias? Different offending rates? Something else? We will answer these questions and explore the rapidly evolving dynamics of policing in the U.S. during a time of racial and ethnic change. Through readings, discussions, and original research, we will develop our understanding of police brutality, the war on drugs, immigration enforcement, racial profiling, and more.

Readings

There is one book you are required to buy:

Davis, Angela J. (editor). 2017. *Policing the Black Man*. New York: Pantheon Books. ISBN: 9781101871270.

You will need a hard copy, *not* an electronic copy, of the Davis book. The other texts will be posted as PDF files on the class Canvas page under “Course Readings.” You will need to bring each day’s readings to class in hard copy or on a tablet or laptop. You will not be allowed to access the readings on a phone during class.

You will complete the readings before the class for which they’re assigned. I have selected about 25 pages (never more than 40) of reading per class. Completing it will require some butt-in-chair reading time, between one and three hours for each class. As with any college course, most of your learning will occur outside the classroom. If you get stuck on or bored with a passage, try reading out loud or setting a timer with planned breaks. Turning off the internet and phone is helpful too.

Requirements and Grading

The weight of each assignment is below. After I grade each assignment, I will post your grade on Canvas. Letter grades are the unrounded percentages and follow the typical A for 93% or above, A- for 90% to 92.9%, B+ for 87% to 89.9%, B for 83% to 86.9%, and so on, with the minus and plus cut-offs at the 3s and 7s.

12.5% of total grade - Attendance

There are 29 classes this semester. I calculate the attendance grade out of 27 classes. So, you can miss two and still get 15 points. Attending all 29 classes will result in an attendance grade above 100%. For each class you miss below 27, a point will be deducted

from the 15 possible attendance points. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. So, you do not need to email me when you miss a class. When you're absent, be sure to email another student to learn what you missed.

12.5% of total grade - Participation in Class

Most of our classes will involve some discussion. I will sometimes cold call, but always after giving everyone a chance to write down their responses. I determine participation points based on two criteria: Did you bring annotated copies of the reading to class? And did you participate in the day's discussion with comments rooted in the readings? See, also, "Reading" below for what annotations you should prepare for every discussion.

25% of total grade – Midterm Exam

The Midterm Exam will cover all readings, lectures, and class discussions preceding it. It will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay responses. You will be allowed to use one piece of paper, single-sided, size-12 font, of notes. The best way to prepare for the exams is to read each text twice.

25% of total grade - Research Presentation and Annotated Bibliography

Toward the end of the semester, you will make a 5-minute presentation, using slides, to the class summarizing the findings of your research project. On the day you make your presentation, you will hand me an annotated bibliography with at least six sources, one of which must be a book. We will review the expectations and rubrics for the presentation and bibliography as the semester progresses.

25% of total grade - Final Exam

The Final Exam will resemble the Midterm Exam but cover the material since the Midterm.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism of any kind will result in you failing the course and being referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Review UF's Honor Code under "Scope and Violations" here: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/> and review best practices for citation at the library's site here: <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/copyright/plagiarism>.

Late Work

The exams cannot be made up if missed. If you must perform hour presentation late, you must clear it with me before the deadline. For each calendar day (not class day) you present late, one letter grade (i.e. 10% of the grade) will be deducted from the grade for that assignment. So, if you earn an A-, your grade will be reduced to a B-.

Phones, Laptops, and Tablets

You may use laptops or tablets to store the readings or to take notes in class. Please do not use a phone or access the internet during class. Turning off wifi might help with self-control if you want

to use a laptop. If you use a laptop or tablet for purposes other than reading or note taking, you will lose participation points for the day and no longer be able to use the device in class. Students who look particularly engrossed in their laptops are more likely to be called on.

Students with Disabilities

If you will be requesting classroom accommodations, register with the Disability Resource Center, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>, early in the semester. Let me know, and we will work together to provide a supportive learning environment.

Reading

Always annotate while you read and come to class with these written down: (1) each text's take-home message and (2) a question you still have about the reading. I will often begin class by asking several people to read (1) or (2) aloud. Class discussions will move beyond the readings, they will not summarize them. So, be sure to grasp them before class.

Instructor Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on giving professional, respectful feedback is at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Contacting Me

Before emailing me, check the syllabus. Many questions are answered herein. If this doesn't answer your question, email a fellow student. If that is similarly fruitless, email me. If I don't respond within 48 hours, email me again. For any substantive discussions please schedule a meeting or come to my office hour. Discussing research paper topics or grades in the classroom after class is usually more frantic than helpful.

Schedule

Tuesday January 7th – Introduction

Thursday January 9th – Is Race Biological or Social?

Review this syllabus.

Conley, Dalton. 2015. Excerpts from "Race." *You May Ask Yourself*. pp. 321-337.

Listen to: "By Blood, and Beyond Blood." *On the Media*. (12:18):

<https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/blood-and-beyond-blood>

Tuesday January 14th – Racism, Discrimination, Prejudice, and Privilege

Conley, Dalton. 2015. Excerpts from "Race." *You May Ask Yourself*. pp. 355-362.

Olin Wright, Erik and Joel Rogers. 2015. "Racial Inequality: Criminal Justice" in *American Society*. 348-360. Note: the PDF includes more pages than you are required to read

Thursday January 16th – Policing

Willis, James. 2014. "A Recent History of the Police." *The Oxford Handbook of Police and Policing*. pp. 1-20.

Serial. 2018. "A Bar Fight Walks into the Justice Center," Episode 1, *Season 3* (52:00).

<https://serialpodcast.org/season-three/1/a-bar-fight-walks-into-the-justice-center>

Tuesday January 21st – Race and Policing

Weitzer, Ronald. 2014. "Police Race Relations." *The Oxford Handbook of Police and Policing*.

Thursday January 23rd – History of Race and Policing

Stevenson, Bryan. 2017. "A Presumption of Guilt: The Legacy of America's History of Racial Injustice." in Davis.

Tuesday January 28th – History of Race and Policing: The War on Drugs

Optional reading: Editorial Board, "Slandering the Unborn," *New York Times* December 28, 2018.

Thursday January 30th – Racial Disparity and Its Measurement

Mauer, Marc. "The Endurance of Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System." in Davis.

Tuesday February 4th – Research Strategies

No new reading, but bring the Mauer from last Thursday.

Thursday February 6th – Does "Black Culture" Explain Higher Crime Rates?

Lopez, German. 2016. "Confronting the myth that 'black culture' is responsible for violent crime in America." *Vox*.

Optional: Frum, David and Barry Latzer. 2016. "The Cultural Roots of Crime." *The Atlantic*

Tuesday February 11th – Policing and Place

Stuart, Forrest. 2016. "Introduction." from *Down and Out and Under Arrest*.

Lowery, Welsey et al. 2018. "Where Killings Go Unsolved." *Washington Post*. Read online (desktop best) at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/investigations/where-murders-go-unsolved/>

*Email your research question to Brenden by class today

Thursday February 13th – Calling 911 & Broken Windows Policing

Weaver, Vesla. 2018. "Why White People Keep Calling 911 on Black Americans." *Vox*

Beck, Brenden. 2018. "Saheed Vassell Was Killed in A Gentrifying Neighborhood. Did it Make a Difference?" *The Appeal*.

Bratton, Bill and George Kelling. 2015. "Why We Need Broken Windows Policing." *City Journal*.

Tuesday February 18th – Race, Poverty, and Criminal Justice

Western, Bruce and Jeremy Travis. "Poverty, Violence, and Black Incarceration" in Davis.

MacDonald, Heather. 2017. "Poverty is not the Chief Cause of Crime." *National Review*.

Thursday February 20th – No Class

Tuesday February 25th – Exam Review

Thursday February 27th – Midterm Exam

Spring Break

Tuesday March 10th – Victimization

Price, Richard. 2013. "Bicycle Safety on Essex." *Esquire*.

Leovy, Jill. 2015. "A Circle of Grief." *Ghettoside* pp. 3-12.

Thursday March 12th – Implicit bias

Russell-Brown, Kathryn. 2017. "Making Implicit Bias Explicit: Black Men and the Police" in Davis. Take the Implicit Assumptions Test. Navigate to:

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html> then click on "Race IAT"

Tuesday March 17th – Police Brutality

Fairfax Jr., Roger. 2016. "The Grand Jury and Police Violence against Black Men" in Davis.

Optional: [Montgomery, Ben. 2017. "Why Cops Shoot." Tampa Bay Times.](#)

Thursday March 19th – Latinos, Immigrants, and Policing

Excerpts from: Hagan, Shedd, and Payne. "Race, Ethnicity, and Youth Perceptions of Criminal Injustice." *American Sociological Review*.

Tuesday March 24th – Choose one set of readings:

- **Sexuality, Gender Identity, Race, and Policing**
Spade, Dean. 2012. "Interview with Laura Flanders." *The Nation*.
- **Race and Prosecutors**
Davis, Angela J. 2017. "The Prosecution of Black Men." In Davis.
- **Black People Encouraging Mass Incarceration**
Forman Jr., James. 2017. "Introduction" from *Locking Up Our Own*. Pp. 3-14.
Gramlich, John. "Black and white officers see many key aspects of policing differently." *Pew Reports*.
- **Capitalism, Race, and Policing**
Hall, Stuart et al. 1974. "Crime, Law, and the State." *Policing the Crisis* pp. 181-194.

Thursday March 26th – What is to be Done?

Meares & Tyler. 2017. "Policing: A Model for the 21st Century." In Davis.

Dutta, Sunil. 2014. "I'm a Cop. If You Don't Want to Get Hurt, Don't Challenge Me" *The Washington Post*.

Movement for Black Lives. 2015. *A Vision for Black Lives*. You can skip the glossary.

Tuesday March 31st – What is to be Done?

Lum, Cynthia and Daniel Nagin. 2017. "Reinventing U.S. Policing." *Crime & Justice*. Pp. 339-343.

Manasseh, Tamar. 2018. "Police Aren't the Solution to Chicago's Violence" *The New York Times*.

Emmanuel, Rahm. 2019. "Why Chicago Leads on Police Reform" *The New York Times*.

Thursday April 2nd – Research Presentations

Tuesday April 7th – Research Presentations

Thursday April 9th – Research Presentations

Tuesday April 14th – Exam review

Thursday April 16th – Final Exam

Tuesday April 21st – Concluding class

This schedule might change as the semester progresses. Watch your UFL email inbox for updates.