

Fall 2017

Brower Hall 101

Session Hours: TR 2:20 PM-3:45 PM

Office Hours: TR 11:30 AM-12:30 PM; By Appt in Davison 205E

Dr. Rodriguez

Race and Criminality is a survey course about the societal reaction and state response to the presumed criminality of racialized subjects in America. It will introduce the sociological concepts of *race* and *racialization* and explore the ways in which the nation creates and congeals these categories in the pursuit of nation-building.

Alongside this conversation of race, we will critically evaluate and discuss “criminality,” defined as the state or quality of being considered criminal. Therefore, this course will explore historical and current processes of considering certain, racialized bodies criminal or damaging. Topics of this course range from Japanese Internment, "oriental depravity," illegal immigration, the racializing of Muslims after the War on Terror, and assumptions about black "thugs" and "welfare queens."

This course will rely on various techniques: reading academic articles, class discussion, listening to interviews and podcasts, experiential writing and lectures will all contribute to student learning. Multimedia consumption is crucial to ensuring that everyone can encounter and grasp what they have not experienced. Therefore, students will be evaluated in ways that respect various forms of mastery, be it speaking, writing, sharing or observing.

Learning Objectives

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

1. Describe the formation of racial and discuss pivotal legislation and historical moments relating to law and crime in the United States.
2. Evaluate settler colonialism, its timeline and effects on North American societies.
3. Interrogate various classes of crime, victimization and perpetration as they relate to American social problems and inequalities.
4. Critically interrogate the idea of the criminal.
5. Identify notable theorists within the sociology of race and ethnic relations and criminology.
6. Analyze and discuss readings of historical processes *vis a vis* the occurrences and experiences of our current society.
7. Gather and summarize peer-reviewed literature and data on relevant social issues

There are various required readings for this course, but only one text that students will need to purchase or rent. The remaining texts will be available on Blackboard and grouped into folders according to the week. The weeks correspond with the “Schedule of Topics” available on this syllabus.

Required Book: Images of Color, Images of Crime: Readings 3rd Edition
by Coramae Richey Mann (Editor), Marjorie S. Zatz (Editor), Nancy Rodriguez (Editor)
ISBN-13: 978-0195330632
ISBN-10: 0195330633

Grading

30% Seminar Leader

A small group of (typically three) students will be responsible for leading the discussion for each of the designated “seminar” days. In order to prepare for these discussions, students will need to read, listen or watch all assigned materials and bring to class relevant questions or activities to foster group discussion and facilitate peer learning. The seminar leaders will be evaluated on their preparedness, ability to direct conversation in a helpful and generative way, ability to answer reasonable questions, and usefulness of any outside materials offered. Each student will have two opportunities to lead the seminar in the semester.

10% Contribution

Each student will be graded according to their/his/her participation in and contribution to the class. This grade will consider the regularity of the following factors: 1) student attendance; 2) contribution to discussion and peer learning; 3) informed responses during seminars. It should be obvious that you have read and digested assigned materials before class, or that you have prepared questions or notes for the points that you’ve found confusing.

This grade will be negatively impacted by: 1) in-class cell phone use; 2) private conversations and inattentiveness; 3) unexcused absences and tardiness; 4) disrespectful commentary to peers.

20% Midterm Assessment

There will be a midterm assessment (quiz) that examines students’ mastery of the early topics. This assessment is to serve as a guide for students, so that they may understand their performance in the class early in the semester.

40% Reaction papers

There will be a total of four reaction papers throughout the semester and students may choose the topics for their response. Students will assign themselves the topic at the beginning of the semester and may turn the reaction papers at the speed of their choosing. That is to say, a student may choose to turn in all four at once (before the first deadline), or spread each paper out accordingly. My official recommendation is to spread out the timeline so as to advance the quality of each.

Schedule of Topics

September

Week 1 Introduction: The Power of Images

Week 2 Racializing Crime: Crime Facts according to Race

Week 3 Euro-Americans: Presumed Innocence and the Importance of Class

Week 4 Settler Colonialism and Criminalizing Indigeneity *1st Reaction Paper Due*

October

Week 5 Slavery by Another Name: African Americans (Historical)

Week 6 Imagining the Immigrant: Framing Asian Americans *Midterm Assessment*

Week 7 Imagining the Immigrant: Chican@s at the Borderlands

Week 8 Orientalism and Post-9/11 Politics

November

Week 9 “The Color of Crime”: African Americans (Contemporary) *2nd Reaction Paper Due*

Week 10 Racializing and Criminalizing *Latinidad*

Week 11 Crime at the Intersection of Sexuality and Race/Ethnicity

Week 12 Euro-Americans: The Psychopath Killer Stereotype *3rd Reaction Paper due*

December

Week 13 International Conceptions of Race, Ethnicity and Criminality

Grading Chart

A = 94+

A- = 90 - 93

B+ = 87 - 89

B = 84 - 86

B- = 80 - 83

C+ = 77 - 79

C = 74 - 76

C- = 70 - 73

D+ = 67 - 69

D = 61-66

F = <60

Academic Honesty:

By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing to the following code of conduct. Any and all instances of plagiarism – intentional or not – will be penalized in this class.

Misunderstanding plagiarism will not be excusable in this course. You may read the following for definitions and guidelines to identify any possible infraction:

<http://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/resources/preventing-plagiarism/>

Hofstra University Honor Code: “As a member of the Hofstra community I pledge to demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior in all aspects of my life, both inside and out of the classroom. I understand that I am accountable for everything I say and write. I will not misrepresent my academic work, nor will I give or receive unauthorized assistance for academic work. I agree to respect the rights of all members of the Hofstra community. I will be guided by the values expressed in the P.R.I.D.E Principles. I accept the responsibility to follow this Honor Code at all times.”

Deadlines and Grading Policies

University deadlines can be found here:

<http://www.hofstra.edu/studentaffairs/studentservices/academicrecords/academic-records-fall-2017-calendar.html>

In this course, no late work will be accepted without proof of an excused absence. Absences can be excused for religious observances, university-related athletic participation, jury duty, surgery, medical appointments, funerals, military service and death in the family. Documentation for medical events may not be provided by family members, regardless of the family member's occupational status.

Guidelines Related to Absences for Religious Observances

Any student who must miss class in order to observe a religious holiday retains that right in this course and University, which respect all faiths. However, all students are expected to complete all assignments and examinations. Therefore, all students must notify the professor ahead of missing class in order to ensure that we can coordinate any make up work. **Failure to notify the professor before two weeks of the event can forfeit a student's right to make up the work.**

Student Access Services (SAS):

Students with learning disabilities must inform me within the first week of the start of class. If you believe you need accommodations for a disability, please contact for Student Access Services (SAS). In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, qualified individuals with disabilities will not be discriminated against in any programs, or services available at Hofstra University.

Individuals with disabilities are entitled to accommodations designed to facilitate full access to all programs and services. SAS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will provide students with documented disabilities accommodation letters, as appropriate.

Please note that accommodations may require early planning and are not retroactive; please contact SSD as soon as possible. *All students are responsible for providing accommodation letters to each instructor and for discussing with them the specific accommodations needed and how they can be best implemented in each course.*

Student Policy Prohibiting Discriminatory Harassment, Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct

Hofstra prohibits sexual and other discriminatory harassment, stalking, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and other sexual misconduct (collectively, "Gender Based Offenses"). If you or someone you know believes they have been subjected to any of these Gender Based Offenses, help is available. To make a report, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at (516) 463-5841 or TitleIXCoordinator@hofstra.edu.