

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

Time: Tuesdays 7 (1:55pm to 2:45pm) and Thursdays 7-8 (1:55pm to 3:35pm)

Location: Turlington 1101

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:00pm – 4:00pm or by appointment

Office: Turlington 3356

CCJ 4934/SYA 4930: Race & Policing, University of Florida, Spring 2019

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? Racism? 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.

Required Texts

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

The other texts will be posted as PDF files on the class Canvas page under “Course Readings.” Email me if you need to be added to Canvas. You will need a *hard copy*, not an electronic copy, of the required Davis book. 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.

Requirements and Grading

You will be eligible for 150 points throughout the semester. 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.

15 points (10% of total grade) - Attendance

There are 29 total 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 unless you want to notify me. When you’re absent, be sure to email another student in to learn what you missed.

15 points (10% of total grade) - Participation in Class

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, “Classroom Discussion” below.

30 points (20% 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.

45 points (30% of total grade) - Research Paper

You will complete a 10-to-12-page research paper on a topic of your choosing. We will workshop a research question (due February 19th) and an annotated bibliography (due March 12th) during the semester. I will provide more information on the paper as its deadline (April 23rd) approaches.

15 points (10% of total grade) - Research Presentation

You will make a 5-minute presentation, using slides, to the class summarizing the findings of your research paper.

30 points (20% of total grade) - Final Exam

The Final Exam will resemble the Midterm Exam but cover the material since the Midterm including your peers' presentations.

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

For each day you submit an assignment 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- on the assignment, your grade will be reduced to a B-. I count a "day late" as any time between the deadline and 24 hours after the deadline. The exams and research presentation cannot be made up once they are missed.

Classroom Discussion

Most of our class sessions will involve discussion. Good discussions require that everyone participate but also that everyone listen so be sure to "step up and step back". If you have spoken a lot, speak less, and if you haven't contributed recently, add your voice. I will cold call, so be prepared to answer when called on. See, also, "Reading" below for what annotations you should prepare for every discussion.

Phones, Laptops, and Tablets

You may use laptops or tablets to host 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 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

You will complete the assigned readings by the class for which they're assigned. I have selected about 30 pages (never more than 40) of reading per class. Completing it will require considerable 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.

Always annotate while you read and come to class with each of 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 each aloud. Class discussions will move beyond the readings, they will not summarize them. So, be sure to grasp them before class. The best way to prepare for the exams is to read each text twice.

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 8th – Introduction

Thursday January 10th – Are Race and Ethnicity Real?

Review this syllabus.

Conley, Dalton. 2015. Excerpts from "Race." *You May Ask Yourself*. pp. 321-337 & 355-362.

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

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

Tuesday January 15th – What Distinguishes "Racism", "Prejudice", and "Privilege"?

Olin Wright, Erik and Joel Rogers. 2015. "Racial Inequality." *American Society*. pp. 329-338 & 348-360. Note: the PDF includes more pages than you are required to read

Thursday January 17th – 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 22nd – Race and Policing

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

Thursday January 24th – 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 29th – History of Race and Policing: The War on Drugs

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

Thursday January 31st – Racial Disparity and Its Measurement

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

Lamberth, John. 1998. "Driving While Black: A Statistician Proves That Prejudice Still Rules the Road." *Washington Post*.

Tuesday February 5th – Research Strategies

No reading

Thursday February 7th – 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 12th – 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/>

* Research paper due to Brenden via hard copy in class

Thursday February 14th – 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 19th – Stand Your Ground Laws

Bouie, Jamelle. 2018. "Ground Rules." *Slate*.

Thursday February 21st – Race and Policing Globally – Choose one set of readings:

- **Nicaragua**
Schrader, Stuart. "Nicaragua: Central America's Security Exception." *NACLA Report on the Americas*.
The Economist Staff. 2012. "A Surprising Safe Haven: How Central America's Poorest Country Became its Safest." *The Economist*.
- **Paris, France**
Fassin, Didier. "Discrimination." *Enforcing Order* pp. 144-156.
- **Peepli Khera, India**
Barry, Ellen. 2017 "How to Get Away with Murder in Small Town India." *The New York Times*.

- **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Larkins, Erika Robb. "Performances of Police Legitimacy in Rio's Hyper Favela." *Law & Social Inquiry* pp. 553-555 & 561-566.

Tuesday February 26th – Poverty, Race, and Policing

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*.
* Review for Midterm Exam

Thursday February 28th – Midterm Exam

Spring Break

Tuesday March 12th – Victimization and Intersectionality

Price, Richard. 2013. "Bicycle Safety on Essex." *Esquire*.
Leovy, Jill. 2015. "A Circle of Grief." *Ghettoside* pp. 3-12.
* Annotated bibliography due to Brenden in hard copy in class.

Thursday March 14th – 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 19th – 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 21st – Latinos, Immigrants, and Policing

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

Tuesday March 26th – 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 28th – What is to be Done?

Meares & Tyler. 2017. "Policing: A Model for the 21st Century." In Davis.
Presidential Commission on 21st Century Policing. "Executive Summary." Report pp. 1-4.
Movement for Black Lives. 2015. *A Vision for Black Lives*. You can skip the glossary.

Tuesday April 2nd – What is to be Done?

Lum, Cynthia and Daniel Nagin. 2017. "Reinventing U.S. Policing." *Crime & Justice*. Pp. 339-343.
Coates, Ta-Nehisi. 2015. "The Myth of Police Reform." *The Atlantic*.

Thursday April 4th – What is to be done?

Hill, Jason D. 2018. "My Black Lives Matter Problem." *Commentary*.
Manasseh, Tamar. 2018. "Police Aren't the Solution to Chicago's Violence" *New York Times*.

Tuesday April 9th – Research presentations

Thursday April 11th – Research presentations

Tuesday April 16th – Research presentations

Thursday April 18th – Final Exam

Tuesday April 23rd – Concluding class

* Research paper due in hard copy to Brenden in class and via Canvas by noon.

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