



RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

Program in Criminal Justice

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Criminal Justice Seminar 389 (01:202:389) [CJ CRN 16418]

Topics in Latino and Caribbean Studies 312 (01:595:312:02) [LCS CRN 16419]

BLACK AND BROWN BODIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Tues. & Thurs.; 3:20-4:40p in LIV BRR 5105

Sample Syllabus

ADMIN INFO

Instructor: **Kenneth Sebastian León, PhD**
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Office Hours: [redacted]
Office Location: [redacted]
Course Management: Canvas <https://tlt.rutgers.edu/canvas>
Contact help@canvas.rutgers.edu for access.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines the racialized impacts of criminal justice systems in the United States, with particular focus on how various social, political, ideological, and economic structures have cultivated and maintained anti-Blackness in systems of formal social control. After studying fundamental concepts of race and ethnicity to problematize the very title of the course, we will cover the historical precursors and modern-day features of mass incarceration, state surveillance, migration-related controls, and current developments in criminal justice through a critical race theory and critical legal theory framework. The class format generally consists of substantive lectures combined with discussion-driven analyses of assigned readings and multimedia.

This is a **reading- and discussion-intensive course**, limited to juniors and seniors in the Criminal Justice major, and available as a junior- and senior-level elective under the Latino & Caribbean Studies course listing. Students who find themselves struggling with the demands of this course are urged to make use of all institutional academic support resources – which include office hours – throughout the entirety of the semester. As a supplemental resource, consider the following reading guide from Dr. Miriam Sweeney, which is relevant for both graduate and undergraduate students: <https://miriamsweeney.net/2012/06/20/readforgradschool/>

Additional resources for how to maximize your reading and study strategies include:

- <https://pne.people.si.umich.edu> › PDF › howtoread
- <https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/how-read-book-two-hours-or-less>
- <https://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2010/11/skim>

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LEARNING GOALS

This course will directly advance the learning goals of both the [Latino & Caribbean Studies](#) major and the [Criminal Justice](#) major. Additionally, students who successfully complete this class will have demonstrated competencies in being able to:

- Critically reflect on the criminal justice system's role in racializing human subjects through a historical and theory-driven perspective;
- Understand the historical underpinnings of contemporary justice policies and justice-related social problems;
- Situate criminal justice phenomena as part of a broader structural analysis of racial capitalism and political economies of power;
- Further develop critical thinking skills and the ability to speak and write clearly and analytically;
- Connect a series of social movements to academic literature on race & criminal justice;
- Become familiar with the conceptual and empirical bridges linking Latino/a/x scholarship with select theories and perspectives in criminology and criminal justice;
- Understand the ways in which systems of state governance, institutions, organizations, commercial enterprises, and non-profits built around and upon the project of mass imprisonment;
- Anchor criminal justice policy in electoral politics and the racial politics of crime control;
- Understand the special role of three types of institutions: Police, Corrections, and Courts – and their impact on communities of color;
- Build confidence in engaging directly with scholarly readings and consider potential scholarship and activism opportunities beyond the Fall 2019 semester.

A complete description of Department Learning Goals and Major/Minor requirements can be found on the LCS website: <http://latcar.rutgers.edu>

REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE LIBRARY

Three books are required for this course:

BOOK #1

Critical Race Theory – An Introduction by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic

3rd edition, NYU Press

ISBN 978-1479802760

<https://nyupress.org/9781479802760/critical-race-theory-third-edition/>

BOOK #2

Are Prisons Obsolete? By Angela Y. Davis

Seven Stories Press

ISBN 9781583225813

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/213837/are-prisons-obsolete-by-angela-y-davis/>

BOOK #3

Barbed Wire – A Political History by Olivier Razac

The New Press

ISBN: 9781565848122

<https://thenewpress.com/books/barbed-wire>

Additional course readings are listed below and are available in PDF form on Canvas:

- Allen, Robert L. 2005. "REASSESSING THE INTERNAL (NEO) COLONIALISM THEORY." *The Black Scholar* 35(1):2–11.
- Besteman, Catherine. 2018. "Militarized Global Apartheid." *Current Anthropology* 60(S19):S26–38.
- Bosworth, Mary, Katja Franko, and Sharon Pickering. 2018. "Punishment, Globalization and Migration Control: 'Get Them the Hell out of Here.'" *Punishment & Society* 20(1):34–53.
- Brown, Michelle and Judah Schept. 2017. "New Abolition, Criminology and a Critical Carceral Studies." *Punishment & Society* 19(4):440–62.
- De Genova, Nicholas. 2019. "Latino Studies, Latino/a/X Futures: Provocations toward a Prospectus." *Cultural Dynamics* 31(1–2):16–34.
- Fasensfest, David. 2010. "A Touch of Class, with Layers of Race and a Sprinkling of Gender." *Critical Sociology* 36(1):5–8.
- Fernandes, April D. and Robert D. Crutchfield. 2018. "Race, Crime, and Criminal Justice." *Criminology & Public Policy* 17(2):397–417.
- Gibney, Matthew J. 2013. "Is Deportation a Form of Forced Migration?" *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 32(2):116–29.
- Golash-Boza, Tanya, Maria D. Duenas, and Chia Xiong. 2019. "White Supremacy, Patriarchy, and Global Capitalism in Migration Studies." *American Behavioral Scientist* 0002764219842624.
- Gottschalk, Marie. 2014. "Democracy and the Carceral State in America." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 651(1):288–95.
- Grewcock, Michael. 2018. "Introduction: Mapping the Contours of State Crime and Colonialism." *State Crime; London* 7(2):167.
- Gross, Kali Nicole. 2015. "African American Women, Mass Incarceration, and the Politics of Protection." *Journal of American History* 102(1):25–33.
- Gutin, Iliya. 2018. "Essential(Ist) Medicine: Promoting Social Explanations for Racial Variation in Biomedical Research." *Medical Humanities* medhum-2017-011432.
- Hernández, Tanya Katerí. 2003. "'Too Black to Be Latino/a': Blackness and Blacks as Foreigners in Latino Studies." *Latino Studies* 1(1):152–59.
- Kato, Daniel. 2017. "Carceral State 2.0?: From Enclosure to Control & Punishment to Surveillance." *New Political Science* 39(2):198–217.
- Kienscherf, Markus. 2018. "Race, Class and Persistent Coloniality: US Policing as Liberal Pacification." *Capital & Class* 0309816818815246.
- Michalowski, Raymond J. 2016. "What Is Crime?" *Critical Criminology; Dordrecht* 24(2):181–99.
- Miller, Reuben Jonathan and Forrest Stuart. 2017. "Carceral Citizenship: Race, Rights and Responsibility in the Age of Mass Supervision." *Theoretical Criminology* 21(4):532–48.
- Muhammad, Khalil Gibran. 2011. "Where Did All the White Criminals Go?: Reconfiguring Race and Crime on the Road to Mass Incarceration." *Souls* 13(1):72–90.
- Potter, Hillary. 2013. "Intersectional Criminology: Interrogating Identity and Power in Criminological Research and Theory." *Critical Criminology; 21(3)*:305–18.
- Varsanyi, MonicaW. and Joseph Nevins. 2007. "Introduction: Borderline Contradictions: Neoliberalism, Unauthorised Migration, and Intensifying Immigration Policing." *Geopolitics* 12(2):223–27.
- Ward, Geoff. 2015. "The Slow Violence of State Organized Race Crime." *Theoretical Criminology* 19(3):299–314.