



Spring 2024
SOC 334 sec 2
Race, Crime, and Criminal Justice
Hybrid Class
Monday & Wednesday 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

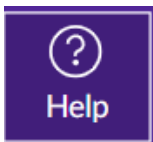
Professor: Dorothy R. De Boer, Ph.D.

Office: Science B331

Office Hours: Monday, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Zoom, and on in-class days, I am available in my office from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

Phone: 901-270-8077. Please call or text between 10 AM and 10 PM.

Please message through Canvas Inbox or by going to the Help icon and then clicking *Ask Your Instructor* a question.



[Ask Your Instructor a Question](#)
Submit a question to your instructor

Course Description: An examination of race in the context of the criminal justice system. Emphasis on the treatment of racial minorities as victims and offenders by law enforcement, courts, and corrections. In this class, we will examine current research and theories of racial and ethnic discrimination within America's criminal justice system.

Course Structure. This class is a hybrid class, which means that some classes will require students to complete coursework online instead of in the classroom. This includes videos, assignments, discussions, and exams, which should all be submitted on Canvas. Please note that I will not accept any assignments completed outside of class in any other form, such as paper or email submissions.

Between one-fourth and one-half of the classes are conducted online, which means that approximately 8 to 16 classes out of the total number of classes will be conducted online. Please refer to the class schedule and Canvas for updates. The online portion of the class will be delivered through the course management system Canvas. You will use your UWSP account to log in to the course from the Canvas Login Page. If you haven't already activated your UWSP account, please visit the Manage Your Account page to do so.

A large portion of the in-person class will be devoted to discussion and group activities. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to coming to class (see the attached schedule of readings and on Canvas). Students are expected to contribute their viewpoints and opinions during class discussions. Due to the active role students play in this course, regular attendance is strongly encouraged. While attendance may not be checked daily, excessive absence will negatively affect your final grade. Students are responsible for all information and assignments missed during their absences--including announcements concerning any changes in the course schedule.

Student Expectations. In this course, you will be expected to complete the following tasks:

- attend and actively participate in all in-person classes.
- read the textbook and other assigned materials.
- stay updated with current events related to our class by reading or watching the news.
- communicate via Canvas message or inbox (see directions in syllabus tab)
- complete basic internet searches
- download and upload documents to the Canvas LMS

Course Requirements. Students are required to participate in class and online discussions, take examinations, and complete quizzes. Please always consult the module for the day for expected tasks and class materials.

Courses Learning Outcomes. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand how race and ethnicity are central to crime and criminal justice.
- Know the difference between race and ethnicity.
- Understand the different theoretical explanations for the racial and ethnic gap in offending and victimization.
- Understand the nature and extent of inequality in American society with respect to racial and ethnic minorities.
- Explain the most important issues related to police and people of color.
- Explain how race and ethnicity continue to be taken into consideration during the jury selection process.
- Understand that there are significant racial differences in attitudes toward capital punishment.
- Have a statistically accurate understanding of who is in prison and the racial and ethnic composition of the prison population.

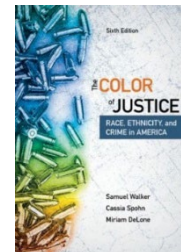
Course Technology Requirements. Students will need a stable internet connection for hybrid days (do not rely on cellular) to participate in this course. A webcam and a microphone may prove useful for virtual office hours.

Technical Assistance. If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas, you can click the Help button near the bottom left of the Canvas navigation screen. From there, you have the following options:

- Ask a question of your instructor or send questions through the Canvas inbox (**this is also how you send me messages**)
- Contact Canvas personnel
- Chat with Canvas personnel
- You can also look up Canvas guides for documentation on issues and seek assistance from the IT Service Desk.

Required Reading

- Walker, S., Spohn, C., & DeLone, M. (2018). *The Color of Justice: Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America*, 6th edition. Cengage Learning. ISBN 978-1-337-09186-2
- Selected articles and audio video material will also be posted on Canvas.



Students with Disabilities. The University has a legal responsibility to provide accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 54 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The University's philosophy
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is to not only provide what is mandated but also convey its genuine concern for one's total well-being. If accommodation is needed, please contact the instructor and the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC), located at 609 LRC. DATC contact information is (715) 346-3365 (Voice), (715) 346-3362 (TDD only), or via email at datctr@uwsp.edu

Assessment and Grading: This course will have three scheduled exams, each of which will be worth 100 points. The exams may consist of multiple-choice, short essay, or matching questions. In addition to exams, there will be various other assignments that will count towards your grade, including discussion posts, in-class discussions, a PowerPoint presentation, essays, and chapter quizzes.

The following is the tentative class plan.

Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Four Quizzes (in class or online)	100
PowerPoint Assignment	50
Five in-class or online discussions	100
Total	550

Letter grades will be assigned based on the percentage of the points that are earned. Grades will be assigned as follows:

93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
59 or below	F

Academic Integrity. The University has clearly articulated its policies governing academic integrity, and students are encouraged to carefully review the policy identified under UWSP Community Rights and Responsibilities. If you are not fully aware of these rights and responsibilities, please see the Student Rights and Responsibilities available in PDF format at <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>. Specifically, you may wish to examine Chapter 14—Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures. Any deviation from these expectations will result in academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. The most significant potential risk for inadvertent academic dishonesty is plagiarism. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to paraphrasing or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Please be sure to cite all material you use. For the most part, your primary source will be your textbook. More information on citation expectations will be provided in the daily announcements.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to participate in this class fully,

contact the Office of Student Disability. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Student Disability Services.

Diversity. In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different than ourselves. In the time we share in discussions or Zoom conferences, please honor the uniqueness of your classmates, and appreciate the opportunities we have to learn from one another.

Tentative Class Schedule of Readings. The topics for the day are listed on the course schedule of readings. The schedule of readings offers a quick guide to the textbook-assigned reading; this is **not** your only expectation. For more detail on the daily expectations and the assignments, you will want to see the module for each day.

Please Note: *Material posted on Canvas* (films, news, articles, etc.) is intended to complement your textbook, and these items *are required and will be on the exams*. Again, please see the module for each day.

WEEK Task	Topic	Reading	
Week One 1/22 and 1/24	Introduction to Course. Race, Ethnicity, And Crime: America's Continuing Crisis	Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Discussion due Monday, 1/29, at 11:59
Week Two 1/29 and 1/31	Victims and Offenders: Myths and Realities about Crime	Chapters 2	Quiz 1 on Canvas and Chapter 2 Discussion due Monday, 2/5 at 11:59
Week Three 2/5 2/7 ONLINE	Ethnicity, Social Structure, and Crime Log into Canvas for ONLINE requirements.	Chapters 3	Chapter 3 Discussion due Monday, 2/12, at 11:59 PM
Week Four 2/12	Justice on the Street? The Police and People of Color	Chapter 4	
2/14 ONLINE	Log into Canvas for ONLINE requirements.		Quiz 2 on Canvas
Week Five 2/19 and 2/21	Exam Review Monday 2/19 Exam One over chapters 1 to 4 is in the classroom on Wednesday 2/21		
Week Six 2/26	The Courts: A Quest for Justice during the Pretrial Process	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 Discussion due by 3/4 at 11:59 PM
2/28 ONLINE	Log into Canvas for ONLINE requirements.		
Week Seven 3/4	The Courts: A Quest for Justice during the Pretrial Process.	Chapter 6	
3/6 ONLINE	Log into Canvas for ONLINE requirements.		Quiz 3 on Canvas is due Monday, 3/11, at 11:59 PM.
Week Eight 3/11 and 3/13 ONLINE	Race and Sentencing: In Search of Fairness and Justice Both classes are ONLINE this week Log into Canvas for ONLINE requirements.	Chapters 7	PowerPoint "When Does Race Matter in Sentencing" due Monday, 3/25 at 11:59 PM

Spring Break 3/18 -3/23

Week Nine 3/25 ONLINE	The Color of Death: Race and the Death Penalty Log into Canvas for ONLINE requirements.	Chapter 8	Quiz 4 on Canvas and Innocence Project Discussion due Monday, 4/1 at 11:59 PM
3/27	The Color of Death: Race and the Death Penalty		
Week Ten 4/1 and 4/3	Exam Review Monday 4/1 Exam Two over chapters 5 to 8 is in the CLASSROOM on Wednesday 4/3		
Week Eleven 4/6	Mass Incarceration		
4/8 ONLINE	Log into Canvas for ONLINE requirements.		
Week Twelve 4/15	Corrections in America: A Portrait in Color	Chapter 9	
4/17 ONLINE	Log into Canvas for ONLINE requirements.		
Week Thirteen 4/22	Minority Youth	Chapter 10	Quiz 5 on Canvas and Current Events Discussion due Monday, 4/29 at 11:59 PM
4/24 ONLINE	Log into Canvas for ONLINE requirements.		
Week Fourteen 4/29 and 5/1	Exam Review Monday 4/1 Exam Three over chapters 5 to 8 is in the CLASSROOM on Wednesday 5/1		