

University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Sociology 333
Survey of Criminology

-Fall 2014-
TR 3:00-4:15p, KUY 306

Instructor: Angel Camacho – M.A., Sociology; M.A., Criminal Justice
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Office: Saunders Hall 213
Office Hours: TTH 10:30-11:30a

Course Description:

Criminology is the study of law-making, law-breaking, and law-enforcement. This course surveys these fields. We will focus on major institutions, actors, and processes in American criminal justice, including police, prosecutors, defense lawyers, judges, plea bargaining, probation, prison, and parole. We will also examine how mass incarceration reflects and reinforces racial inequalities in the United States. Further, we will explore the practice and problem of capital punishment.

Books:

Amy Bach. 2009. *Ordinary Injustice: How America Holds Court*. Metropolitan Books.

Michelle Alexander. 2012. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The New Press.

Scott Turow. 2003. *Ultimate Punishment: A Lawyer's Reflections on Dealing with the Death Penalty*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Supplemental readings will be available on Lualima or handed out in class.

Requirements:

1. Assignments: 80%

All readings should be completed prior to the date reflected on the class schedule.

Interest Statement (15%): You are required to submit an interest statement in class on 9/9/14 (week 3). For this assignment you will state what topic in criminology interests you most, and why. This writing exercise is not meant to be overly exhaustive. In other words, keep your statements brief—2 pages max (typed, double space, 12-point font, 1-inch margin). Although this assignment will be graded as 'complete' or 'incomplete,' simple statements such as, "I'm interested in prisons," are unacceptable.

File Sharing (25%): Utilizing your interest statements, the TA will group you by interests on our Laulima discussion board. At various times throughout the semester (see class schedule) you will be required to find and post a link to an on-line article, streaming video clip, peer-reviewed article, or book review/synopsis pertaining to your topic (graded as 'complete' or 'incomplete'). In addition, you are required to respond to one link posted by another student in your group. The links can be academic, non-academic, serious, funny, or satirical; however, your response should be informed by sociological analyses. Responses should be well thought-out and thorough (at least one paragraph) and will be graded on a three point scale (low satisfactory, medium satisfactory, high satisfactory). Although responses will be due by the start-time of class on the date reflected on the class schedule, please post your link with enough time for your group members to respond on time (your group members depend on you!).

*Note: These assignments are "all or nothing." In other words, you must both post a link and response in order to receive any credit at all.

Mid-Term Reaction (20%): There will be no mid-term exam in this course. Instead, you are required to submit a very short reaction paper (2-3 pages) in class on 10/14/14 (week 8). The topic and details of this assignment will be posted on Laulima during week 7.

Final Presentation (20%): There will be no final exam in this course. Instead, you will be required to present your interest topic utilizing the information you gathered throughout the semester via the File Sharing component. Further details TBA.

*NOTE: Late assignments will NOT be accepted, therefore, if you cannot make it to class for any reason, be sure to email your assignment to the TA by the start time of class or by the due date/time reflected on the class schedule.

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2. Attendance: 20%

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken each class period. We will meet a total of 29 times throughout the semester. Thus, attendance grades will be calculated by taking the number of times you have attended class and dividing it by 29.

Grading Scale:

100—90% = A+ — A-
89—80% = B+ — B-
79—70% = C+ — C-
69—60% = D+ — D-
59—0% = F

Academic Dishonesty:

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic zero (0) for the assignment in question. Not understanding plagiarism will not be an acceptable excuse. Please familiarize yourself with the UHM guidelines and penalties for academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism. A useful resource can be found here:

http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/table_of_contents.php

Expectations:

As with any learning experience, your level of engagement will determine what you get out of this course. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity by actively participating in class, keeping up with the assigned readings, and reflecting on your own experiences. And, ask questions! If there is anything that you do not understand or that you are having trouble with, please ask for help. I want to make sure that you are learning the material and learning how to think about the material in a sociological manner.

Throughout the course, some of the topics will be sensitive, so I expect that we approach these classes with respect. While each person is entitled to an opinion, it is crucial that our discussions remain respectful. In other words, always engage in debates about ideas, never engage in personal attacks. I reserve the right to ask a student to leave the class if their comments are disrespectful or inappropriate in any way.

Cell phones need to be off or on silent AND put away during class. When you are in class be “in-class” and not somewhere else. Please do not work on assignments from other classes while in my class. Lastly, BE ON TIME! Again, I reserve the right to ask students who are being disrespectful to leave the class.

Communications:

E-mail is a good way to reach me. Monday through Friday I generally respond within 24 hours. If you e-mail me after 5pm on Friday, I may not respond until Monday morning. Sometimes questions and concerns come up that are best discussed in person. If it turns out you have such questions or concerns, we'll find a time to meet—either during office hours or at another mutually convenient time. Lastly, I would like to avoid receiving e-mails with questions that can be answered with a close reading of the syllabus.

Facing Challenges?

If you have things going on in your life which will affect your ability to do your best, then let me know as soon as possible—don't wait! You may not be responsible for your circumstances, but you are responsible for letting me know you need help or support.

Disabilities

Please notify me if you have any particular needs. UHM strives to maintain a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access classes, programs, services and other campus activities. If you need any assistance please contact the KOKUA Program at 808.956.7511 or you can visit their website at:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/>

Syllabus:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time. If I make changes, I will send out an email informing you of the amendment. It is your responsibility to check your email for announcements, updates, and general class correspondence.

SOC 333 Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	8/26		
	8/28		
2	9/2	The Criminal Justice System	Ordinary Injustice: Intro & Chapter 1
	9/4		
3	9/9		Ordinary Injustice: Chapter 2 (Interest Statement Due)
	9/11		Ultimate Punishment: Chapter 1-2
4	9/16		Ordinary Injustice: Chapter 3
	9/18		Ultimate Punishment: Chapter 3-4
5	9/23		Ordinary Injustice: Chapter 4 & Conclusion (File Sharing Due)
	9/25	Mass Incarceration	The New Jim Crow: Introduction AND Chapter 1
6	9/30		The New Jim Crow: Chapter 2
	10/2		Ultimate Punishment: Chapter 5-6
7	10/7		The New Jim Crow: Chapter 3 (File Sharing Due)
	10/9		Ultimate Punishment: Chapter 7-8
8	10/14		The New Jim Crow: Chapter 4 (Mid-Term Reaction Due)
	10/16		Ultimate Punishment: Chapter 9-10
9	10/21		The New Jim Crow: Chapter 5 (File Sharing Due)
	10/23		Ultimate Punishment: Chapter 11-12
10	10/28		The New Jim Crow: Chapter 6
	10/30		Ultimate Punishment: Chapter 13-14
11	11/4	NO CLASS: Election Day	
	11/6	Topic Presentations Begin	The New Jim Crow: Chapter 7 AND Ultimate Punishment: Chapter 15

12	11/11	NO CLASS: Veteran's Day	
	11/13		
13	11/18		(File Sharing Due)
	11/20		
14	11/25		
	11/27	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving	
15	12/2		
	12/4		
16	12/9		
	12/11		