

Spring 2024

CRN 25839

CRIJ 4300 Selected Topics: Multiculturalism and Crime (ONLINE)

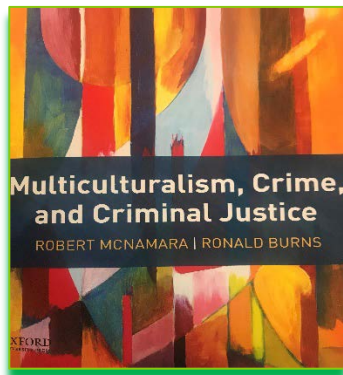
INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Cheryl Ordaz

- Email: [clordaz@utep.edu](mailto:clordaz@utep.edu) (THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO REACH ME) **please NOTE my email is [clordaz@utep.edu](mailto:clordaz@utep.edu) NO other email works. USE only that email, please.**

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines current issues and social problems relating to criminal justice in an increasingly culturally diverse society. A primary focus of the course will be on the changing demographics of communities and related changes in social and institutional public policy. Also discussed is cross-cultural communication; cultural representation in the criminal justice system; implementing cultural awareness training for criminal justice professionals; multicultural representation in law enforcement, courts, and corrections; and criminal justice interaction with various culturally diverse groups.

#### REQUIRED TEXT



ISBN 9780190642631

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Appreciate cultural diversity issues facing police, courts, and corrections in the criminal justice system.
- Recognize the changing ethnicity of communities and related changes to social institutional policy.

- Understand the roles and functions of police, courts, and corrections in a culturally diverse society and to heighten sensitivity to cultural diversity issues facing these components.
- Understand and appreciate a multicultural society.
- Recognize how interaction between personal and social identities is manifested in everyday life.
- Recognize the criminal justice-related consequences arising from cultural differences.
- Become acquainted with model diversity practices utilized by criminal justice entities.
- Enhance critical thinking, research, and communication skills with regard to cultural diversity issues

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are certain requirements that will be necessary for the successful completion of this course. These requirements are mandatory and are explained fully in the syllabus.

- Weekly Group Discussion/case studies- 7 total each worth 29 points (203points possible)
- Reaction Papers – 2 total/each worth 50 points (100 points possible)
- Exam 1- covers chapters 1-8 (100 points possible)
- Final Exam-covers chapters 9-14 (100 points possible)

Week 1: 3/17-3/23

Week 2: 3/24-3/30

Week 3: 3/31-4/6 reaction paper due 4/6 by 11:00 p.m.

Week 4: 4/7-4/13 Exam 1 is open all week closes 4/13 by 11:00 p.m.

Week 5: 4/14-4/20

Week 6: 4/21-4/27 reaction paper due 4/27 by 11:00 p.m.

Week 7: 4/28-5/6 final open all week closes 5/6 by 11:00 p.m.

## GRADING 500 POINT SCALE

A = 500-450

B = 449-400

C = 399-350

D = 349-300

Below 300 points = F

NOTE: Grades are assigned according to the total points earned; there is no rounding or curving, or moving a person to the next letter grade if they are one point away.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a secure web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal.

**IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

## WRITING CENTER INFORMATION

The University Writing Center is located in Library, Room 227. It is a great place to receive help with editing your written papers, and with APA style assistance. They are open M-Th 9:00-5:00 pm, Fr 9:00-2:00 pm, and Sundays 12:00-5:00pm. Appointments are recommended well before the deadline, but they will take walk-ins.

- Owl Purdue- This website helps with APA format and you will be required to know and write in this format. No other format will be accepted!
- **Please be sure to use in text citations on discussion posts and reaction papers the examples below would be within text...**

Examples:

According to Jones (1998), "Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time" (p. 199).

Jones (1998) found "students often had difficulty using APA style" (p. 199); what implications does this have for teachers?

According to Jones (1998), APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners. APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners (Jones, 1998, p. 199)

## Reaction Papers

Choose a topic that we have discussed thus far and link to current events and or documentaries, films...explain your position on the event, documentary and or film.

Provide me with a logical reasoning behind your position. You are at complete liberty to conduct further research to help you formulate response. You want to be sure to support your view with evidence (real world facts, examples, case studies) Cite any work that is not your own **APA writing style format is required for this paper. NO OTHER FORMAT WILL BE ACCEPTED**

You will not need to submit an abstract just a title and reference page. You will have a total of 6 pages (4 of actual research). Use topics pertaining to chapter and use quotes and paraphrasing appropriately, back up your views and opinions with research that supports claims.

Your paper should feature: (1) a clear thesis statement (i.e. "In this paper I will argue..."); (2) key ideas of relevant articles/books/ sources that you find; (3) a clear, well -reasoned argument; (4) conclusion that recaps the main points of your argument.

\*\*First person is not allowed in formal writing

#### Grading Rubric- Research Paper

The paper contains a clear, understandable, thesis statement (0-20 points)

The author has consulted the articles/books that are most relevant to the question at hand, and also explained the central arguments therein with care and precision (0-25points)

The paper contains a clear, well-reasoned, careful argument (0-25 points)

#### WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSIONS

There will be 1 group discussion exercise per week (total 7 discussions for the semester) after careful reading and analysis of the assigned texts, you must individually write a response to the assigned question(s). **Discussions will open on Sundays at 5 a.m. and close on Saturdays at 11:00 p.m...**

**In order to receive any credit for weekly discussions all of the following mentioned below must be met: NO EXCEPTIONS**

Is the commentary to initial question at minimum 400 words?

Is the commentary to classmate at minimum 400 word?

Does the commentary show evidence of having read the material?

Does the commentary show evidence of thinking about the reading beyond just summarizing it?

(This may include extension to new circumstances extension to new circumstances/other readings, contradictory evidence, internal (in) consistency, and analyses of assumptions.)

Does the commentary include relevant evidence to support its own argument? **HINT YOU WILL NEED CITATIONS**

Refrain from simply stating "I agree" Or "great post". If this is all you write you will lose points for discussion **HINT: YOU WILL ONLY GET 5 POINTS**. If you agree with student clearly state what it is you agree with or disagree with?

The standard practice ("netiquette") for participation in networked discussion requires that all participation be focused on the topic at hand, not become personalized, and be substantive in nature.

Ex. Author's last name, year, and page number

Ordaz, 2017, pg.6

Discussion Questions will be graded based on response quality, and that an in-text citation is provided for each original response. Integrate various main ideas from the book, thoughtfully

describe what the concept and/or issues mean to you, evaluate/analyze the reasonableness or quality of ideas, identify hidden assumptions, fallacies, or things take for granted.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

There will be 2 exams.

Exams will contain a combination of true/false, multiple choice, fill-in the blank, short answer, and essay questions at a rather high degree of difficulty, and reflects your understanding rather than ability to memorize and/or look up information. The instructor reserves the right to override any disagreement over right answers.

Exams are open book, and open note. Exams will be based both on discussions and assigned reading materials.

The first exam will be on week 4.

Your final exam will be on week 7.

Failing to complete exam because you forgot or you were not aware is not a valid excuse. I have outlined for you when exams are and it is crucial that you make note of week 4 and week 7 for this course.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY**

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

## **DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY**

No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable. I am at complete discretion to ask for supporting documents if in the event you have an excusable absence. Excusable absences are those that can be supported with verifiable documentation.

## **MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given

course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

### **ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort BUT before the deadline.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY**

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is

determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

## **SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Submitting work that was used for another course for this course is cheating. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

## **PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE**

Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

## **COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS**

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

## **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

**Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.** If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office



can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. **The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org)**

### **Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance**

**UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:**

#### **Technology Resources**

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

#### **Academic Resources**

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

#### **Individual Resources**

- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.

Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and g