

Southeast Missouri State University
Criminal Justice and Sociology
SO 305 Race, Gender, Class and Crime
3 Credit Hours

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours:

A socio-historical analysis of the effects of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and gender on legitimate social opportunities, criminal behavior, victimizations, and differential treatment by the criminal justice system. (3)

II. Prerequisites:

SO 102 or CJ 100; and junior standing.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- 1) Analyze and synthesize how the Criminal Justice System is experienced differently among racial minorities.
- 2) Examine the influence of race, class, and gender on victimization, crime and justice.
- 3) Analyze the impact of social institutions and culture in shaping our understanding and assumptions regarding social class.
- 4) Examine the workings of the Criminal Justice System for the economically disadvantaged and socio-economic disparities and offender treatment and processing in the Criminal Justice System.
- 5) Analyze and understand injustices of women (Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse)
- 6) Explore and analyze upper-class crime and the process of justice in contrast with crimes of the poor.

IV. Expectations of Students:

- 1) Students are expected to read all assigned materials and to actively participate in all assignments.
- 2) Students will exemplify professional behavior in relation to human interaction and cultural diversity.
- 3) Students will write and present a series of position papers regarding inequalities in race, gender and social class in relation to crime, victimization and justice.

- 4) Students will conduct independent research and write a comprehensive paper discussing a selected topic relevant to issues in race, gender, class and criminal activity, victimization or justice.
- 5) Students will present findings of independent research to the class and will be graded upon oral presentation criteria for in-class presentations.

V. Course Outline:

Introduction	(3 hours)
Inequalities in Race/Ethnicity and the Criminal Justice Process	(6 hours)
Economic Inequality and the Process of Justice	(6 hours)
The Emergence of Gender in Criminology	(3 hours)
Female Offending, Processing, Punishment and Treatment	(3 hours)
Domestic Violence	(3 hours)
Sexual Abuse	(3 hours)
Death Penalty Research Concerning Gender, Race and SES	(6 hours)
White Collar Crime (Upper Class vs. Lower Class Crime)	(6 hours)
The Impact of High Incarceration Rates on Communities	(3 hours)
Hate Crimes	(3 hours)

VI. Textbook and Course Materials:

Belknap, J. (2007). The Invisible Woman: Gender, Crime, and Justice. Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Reiman, J. (2010). The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison. Allyn & Bacon.

VII. Basis of Student Evaluation:

Assignments	20%
Exams	30%
Research Paper	30%
Class presentation	20%

The weight of the evaluation criteria may vary according to each instructor and will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

VIII. Grading Scale

Letter grades will be awarded as follows:

100-90	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59----	F

IX. Academic Policy Statement:

Students will be expected to abide by the University Policy for Academic Honesty regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. Refer to:

<http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html>

X. Student with Disabilities Statement:

If a student has a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires materials in an alternative format, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs.