



CJ 497 (01.e): RACE & CRIME

Spring 2024

1/10/2024 through 5/10/2024

Tu/Th 2:00pm-3:15 in SS 310

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Mike Tapia, Ph.D.
Office Location:	Ferguson 231
Office Hours:	Tu/Th 3:30pm – 6:00pm
Main Office Phone:	903-886-5332 (Messages Only)
Email Address:	michael.tapia@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	Normally within 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended Text: Gabbidon, Shaun and Taylor-Greene. Helen. 2018. *Race & Crime, 5th edition*. Sage. ISBN: 9781544334233

*****All other readings for this course are obtained by students in Online Library Searches*****
*****Per the instructions in item #3. below*****

Course Description

This seminar examines various topics on race/ethnicity and crime in the U.S.

We consider:

- 1) perceptions of crime-proneness by race/ethnicity;
- 2) actual crime stats by race/ethnicity;
- 3) studies that explain the links between race/ethnicity and crime; and
- 4) the processing of race-ethnic minorities by the justice system.

We discuss intersections between race, ethnicity, gender, and social class in the context of these topics. Special topics like hate crimes, race and gangs, and race and white-collar crime are also addressed.

Student Learning Objectives & Outcomes

Students will:

- 1) explore basic theories and concepts on race, ethnicity, and crime
- 2) note offense, victimization, and arrest patterns by race & ethnicity in official and survey data
- 3) evaluate the relationship of race to criminal activity
- 4) study criminal justice processing statistics and trends for whites and minorities
- 5) assess whether race/ethnic bias or discrimination exists within the justice system;
- 6.) seek and summarize literature on topics of interest within this subfield
- 7.) write a term paper based on presentation and reading summary topics
- 8.) design a research proposal within the term paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

1. **Participation:** This course is conducted as a seminar, where theories, concepts, issues, and ideas are presented then debated and developed. Therefore, coming to class and discussing the readings, student summaries, presentations, and lecture materials is essential. Class participation includes asking questions, providing answers, and entering into discussions where you feel you can contribute insights. The quality of your Class Participation constitutes 10% of your course grade.

*****To earn your Weeks 1 & 2 Participation Grade*****:

- a. Select 2 readings from our reading list
 - b. Locate those readings using the instructions provided under item 2. below, and email them to me
 - c. I will place them on our reading schedule and update that list throughout the first few weeks of class
 - d. Review the updated reading schedule on D2L and mark your calendar for the dates of your 2 readings
2. **Summaries of Readings:** To facilitate weekly discussion of course materials, and to develop your skills in analyzing published research for your term paper, you are required to summarize two (2) readings this term (sign up for any two readings on the list, first-come first served). **Try to make your selections conform to your term paper topic and vice-versa.** Write-ups are due the week following the date they are discussed in class. Each summary is worth 10% of your course grade. See the “*Summaries Assignment*” guidelines on D2L and below for details.

A guide with bulleted points for you to address in these reading summaries is on D2L.

Articles are located by students using the TAMUC Library Homepage or Google/Google Scholar online. To access them, use the “One Search” feature of the TAMUC Library homepage at: <https://inside.tamuc.edu/library/index.php> and type in the journal title you are looking for. This is the part of the citation that is *italicized* e.g. *Journal of Ethnicity in CJ* or *Race & Justice*. This will prompt you to sign in with student credentials and it will take you to the journal link. Click “Submit”, Select the Year, then search for the Volume & Issue number, and download the full text in .pdf. If it is not available, use the Inter-Library Loan (ILL) link on the left of the page to enter the reading’s citation info and you will receive a copy electronically as an email attachment within a few hours up to a few days (depending on librarians’ availability and how difficult it is to find the reading). You may also

conduct your own searches for readings not on the list, using key terms related to race & crime in a library search engine. If you do, send me a copy of the article or reading that you select for approval.

Consult with a reference librarian using the library's chat feature, an email, or a phone call if you are having trouble locating a reading. Often, one will have luck finding readings using Google Scholar or using a simple Google search. Once you obtain a .pdf copy of the reading, email it as an attachment to your instructor for approval and for sharing with the rest of the class. Finally, if still having too much trouble finding a desired reading using all of these steps, consult with me.

3. **Presentation & Write Up:** To get you thinking critically about issues related to race and crime in the U.S., you will make a brief class presentation on a race & crime topic of your choice. During weeks 3, 4 & 5, students will present themes of their choice from course materials and/or outside sources. Browse the entirety of the syllabus, reading list, slides, etc., search the internet, and look to your prior courses to get ideas for topics. This project (presentation & brief writeup) accounts for 20% of your course grade. (See the *Presentation guidelines on D2L for details*).
4. **Term Paper Updates:** At two points in the semester (3/5/24 and 4/7/24), I will gauge your progress on the final project, assign a grade ranging from 0 to 3.33, and provide feedback. For the first draft, include: 1) a general statement of the purpose of your work and how it is progressing to date; 2) key concepts in your topic 3) summaries of published research on the topic you've found so far 4) identify other key resources for examining the topic 5) problems that you have encountered, or expect to encounter, and 6) a works cited/references page. These write-ups are due on the dates listed above and the written feedback I provide throughout the term should be reflected in your final project. Staple the graded first draft to the back of your 2nd draft and so-on. These progress updates and a final reflection on the process of writing the paper constitute 10% of your final grade.
5. **Term Paper:** Your primary assignment for the course is to develop a term paper (7-8 pp., double-spaced, PLUS Cover Page and Reference Page(s)). This should be a *literature review* on a relevant topic in race and crime, using the information contained in the Presentation and Reading Summaries assignments. Do not format your literature review as an annotated bibliography, but rather as a well-integrated academic discussion that cites various works in a series of individual sections or paragraphs. Google the phrase "annotated biblio" to familiarize with it and know what format to avoid.

You may choose from among a wide variety of topics covered in class to write your paper on but if you are unsure of the appropriateness of the topic, ask the instructor. Papers should culminate in a research design with proposed data and methodology sections. A preliminary description of the paper idea (2 pages), plus a list of references collected to date is due on Tues 3/5/24 and your second draft is due Tuesday, April 7th. Your term paper counts as 40% of your course grade.

To summarize, course requirements are weighted as follows:

Participation in Weekly Discussions	10%
Journal Article Summaries	20%
Presentation & Write Up	20%
Term Paper Progress Updates, Drafts, & Final Reflection	10%
Term Paper	<u>40%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Final grades are determined as follows:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Minimal Technical Skills Needed:

1. Ability to use Microsoft Word
2. Ability to navigate the D2L Learning System
3. Ability to navigate TAMUC Library Resources
4. Ability to navigate the internet

Instructional Methods

There are no exams in this course. It is an in-person, student-driven, seminar course with the occasional lecture from your instructor, information from other forms of media, and guest speakers. Most of the instructional content is based on weekly assignments and class discussion over each student presentation or reading summary. Any relevant slides are made available in a clearly labeled module in D2L.

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

1. Read this syllabus with great care and pay attention to its details. Mark due dates and other important notes in your personal calendar. Revisit the syllabus periodically and ask questions if you have them.
2. Students should attend each class or as often as possible, but especially when they are scheduled to deliver a presentation or lead the discussion on a reading they have selected and summarized for a grade.
3. Before each class, students should skim readings and sections of the textbook chapter(s) scheduled for coverage in class per the weekly schedule (below).
4. **The class is designed for you to use your assignments to build towards your final project,** so please start reviewing readings, slides, etc., and brainstorming ideas for your projects a.s.a.p. I am always willing to discuss your ideas and answer questions.
5. The reading list contains a set of items from which to choose to fulfill the summaries assignment. You may also search for other readings not on the list that are more suitable to your topic. Use that handpicked set of readings to use on your Presentations and to start or inform your Term Paper. My advice is to keep the same topic for both the Presentation and Term Paper.

6. Avail yourself of resources at the TAMUC Writing Center for proofreading and advice: [TAMUC Writing Center. i.e.](#) Please take your paper drafts and a copy of the writing assignment to the writing center for help.

7. Do not plagiarize, do not use Artificial Intelligence applications like Chat GPT, or purchase term papers off of the internet to present as your own work. This never ends well for the student or the instructor, as undergoing the academic misconduct process with the university is not a pleasant experience, and it takes valuable time out of everyone's busy schedule. Please see the info on Academic Dishonesty / Integrity on p. 6 below.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Students should have access to a Device or PC at home or work, the library, TAMUC campus computer labs, etc. Back up your files to avoid losing your work. This might include the use of a jumpdrive, a google drive, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Contacting the Instructor

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please speak to your Instructor before, during, or after class. Also use TAMUC email or D2L's messaging program for a more careful and complete discussion over questions or issues.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, hybrid modifications etc., may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity & Misconduct

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Reading Topics, Presentations, & Discussions Schedule (Subject to Changes)

Week 1: 1/11-1/14 **Thoroughly Read Through all Material on the Course D2L Page: Assignments, Slides, Reading List, etc. and Sign Up for Individual Readings.**

Intro to the Field of Race/Ethnicity and Crime:

Any Week 1 readings students wish to sign up to Summarize (using the Guide on D2L) are due via email by Monday, 1/15 or sooner to allow for grading comments and possible revision prior to class discussion.

Week 2:
1/16 – 1/18 Perceptions of Minorities and Crime

Week 3:
1/23 (Tues) **STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**
1/25 (Thurs) **Presentations 1 & 2** Students may volunteer to present
Presentations 3 & 4 or go alphabetically by last name.

Week 4:
1/30 (Tues) **STUDENT PRESENTATIONS** Students may volunteer to present
Presentations 5 & 6 or go alphabetically by last name.

1/31 (Wed) **Extra Credit:** Library Workshop, 1pm Wed. 1/31: “Digital Research Tools and Techniques”
<https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/95808055752?pwd=citMbVF0c2ZVUDY4MVo0SDhWZTV0Zz09> (password: 801037)

2/1 (Thurs) **Presentations 7 & 8**

Week 5:
2/6 (Tues) **LIBRARY INSTRUCTION & STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**
2/8 (Thurs) **Library Workshop: “How to Start a Research Project”**
Presentations 9 & 10

Week 6:
2/13 (Tues) **STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**
2/15 (Thurs) **Presentations 11 & 12**
Student reading summaries

Week 6
2/20 – 2/22 **STUDENT READING SUMMARIES**
Offending patterns by race & ethnicity
Race and Social Class
Self Reported Crime surveys by Race
The Latino Paradox

Week 7
2/27 - 2/29 **READING SUMMARIES**
Racial Threat & Fear of Crime
Assimilation, Crime, and Punishment
Police-Minority Relations: Bias & Profiling vs. Rational System

Week 8
3/5 – 3/7

TERM PAPER FIRST DRAFT
2 page Prelim Statement Due in class: Tuesday 3/5/24

Library Workshop: [Developing Your Research Question \(online\) - A&M-Commerce Community Calendar \(tamuc.edu\)](#)

Week 9
3/12 – 3/14

*******SPRING BREAK*******

Extra Credit: View this Recorded Library Workshop: “Developing Your Research Question”
∴ <https://youtu.be/jkZ5slFUPAk?feature=shared>

-Write up a summary of what you learned and how you will apply it to your project.

Week 10
3/19 – 3/21

Student reading summaries

Sentencing and Punishment
Race and Homicide/Violence
Gangs, Gender, and Race

Week 11
3/26 – 3/28

Student reading summaries

The Underclass & Street Subcultures

Week 12
4/2 – 4/4

Individual reading summaries

Black Street Gangs & Public Order

Week 13
4/9 – 4/11

2nd Term Paper Draft Due on Tuesday 4/9/24 in Class

Attach your graded first draft to it.

Week 14
4/16 - 4/18

Student reading summaries

Latino Street Gangs
Prison Gangs and Race/Ethnicity

Week 15
4/23 – 4/25

Student reading summaries

Gang Migration,
Transnationalism & Mexican Drug Cartels
Globalism, Race, and Crime

Week 16
4/30 – 5/2

Course Wrap Up

TERM PAPERS DUE, Printed Out, Bring to Class
Attach your graded second draft to it.

Final “Exam” Info Below: Due by Sunday May 5 via email attachment.

The final “exam” is a brief reflection regarding 1) your final project and 2) the class as a whole. Also answer these additional Qs: 3) What did you learn from writing the paper, 4) any regrets, 5) different approaches you would’ve taken, 6) what would be the next steps in continuing on with your research?,

There is no page requirement for this reflection. It will constitute the last portion of your grade for the Term Paper Progress Updates. Each entry is worth 3.33 points total x 3 ~ 10 pts.