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2020

### POL-7200 - Minorities and the Criminal Justice System

Vanda Seward

*CUNY Kingsborough Community College*

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**Kingsborough Community College  
Of the City University of New York**

**POL 7200 02 (16484 – MINORITIES AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM  
ONLINE  
Fall 2020**

**Instructor: Dr. Vanda Seward  
Office: Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-6:00pm  
Email: [Vanda.seward@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Vanda.seward@kbcc.cuny.edu)  
Phone: 718.368.6628**

**Course Description**

The influence of culture, race and ethnicity on minorities as victims, suspects, criminals and practitioners. The major focus will be cross-cultural contact and the need for an understanding of cultural differences and respect for those of different backgrounds. The interaction between minorities, the courts, corrections, and police will be evaluated in the context of multicultural criminal justice. Additional time devoted to a Civic Engagement experience is required

**Student Learning Outcomes**

In this course students shall obtain a comprehensive knowledge of the current issues and social problems relating to criminal justice in an increasingly culturally diverse society. Students will explore the changing demographics of communities and related changes in social and institutional public policy. As a result of lectures, guest speakers, assignments, and video.

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Appreciate cultural diversity issues facing police, courts, and corrections in the criminal justice system.
- Understand how to advocate the need for reform when necessary.
- 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.

**Required Materials**

McNamara, R. & R. Burns. (2017). Multiculturalism, Crime, and Criminal Justice. NY: Oxford University Press.

Other materials will be distributed in class or linked onto the course web page on Blackboard.

## Course Requirements and Policies

- 1) **Weekly Writing Assignments are in 2 parts 1. Following each chapter, a Writing Prompt will be posted in the weekly folder in “Course Assignments” on Blackboard. These writing assignments will require you to post a blog applying the information that you have read for the week to an argument or problem occurring in contemporary media. 2. You must reply to at least one of your peer’s post. These are to be completed by the deadline, usually Saturday by 11:59PM. Requests for extensions will NOT be granted.**
- 2) **Mid-term will be posted under the “Course Assignments” tab on Blackboard. The mid-term exam will usually consist of multiple-choice & short answer questions. They must be completed by the deadline, usually Saturday by 11:59PM. Extensions will not be granted.**
- 3) **One Five (5) Page Research Essay. This essay will require you to follow a specific issue throughout the course of the semester and analyze the issue from a variety of perspectives including but not limited to media, law and regulation and ethics. You will then be required to write an essay using concepts that we discuss in class. The essay will require the submission of an outline which must include 5 scholarly reference Specific topics and format requirements will be posted under “Course Assignments” on Blackboard.**
- 4) **Final Exam. The final exam will all have two portions: the first being multiple choice and short answer questions.; the second portion will be one-to-three essay questions which will evoke your understanding of the interrelationships and influences of the minorities and the criminal justice system.**

## Grade Requirements

Grading In calculating your final grade, equal weight will be assigned to the following:

- |                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| • Final Exam                   | 25% |
| • Essay                        | 25% |
| • Weekly Blogs/Writing Prompts | 25% |
| • Mid-Term Exam                | 25% |

100% Grade rubrics for Discussion Board activity and Assignments will be clearly posted for each activity on Blackboard.

**Makeup and Late Work** The scheduled dates of all exams and written assignments are clearly indicated in this syllabus. No make-up exams or late papers will be accepted without my prior approval.

**Course Geography** I have made every attempt to simplify the layout for our online classroom, yet improvements are always being discovered. The following are brief descriptions of the most pertinent menu buttons that you will use to access material and

assignments for this course. There are many functions that are not listed; however, you can find more details on the Blackboard User Guide at

<http://www.kingsborough.edu/bb/Pages/BlackboardUserGuide.aspx>

**Announcements:** This is the default starting page when you log on to the class page. Announcements are posted at the beginning of each week to inform students what topics/chapters will be covered and a brief explanation of the assignments for the week. Any changes or updates, due-date reminders or other pertinent information will show up there. Announcements are also emailed to your student email account as they are posted.

**Course Information:** This button will take you to any course information and syllabus for the course. Any changes to the syllabus or course calendar will be updated here as well. You will also be notified of any changes via the Announcements.

**Course Content:** This button will bring you to the material that we will be covering each week. Within "Course Content" you will find a content folder for each week's lesson. The folder will display a brief description of the topic for the week and a list of the assignments. In the folder will be the PowerPoint notes (in PDF form), web links, and links to the discussion board topic and blog for that week. A new announcement is posted each time a new content folder is released (usually Sunday 6:00pm)

**Course Assignments:** This link will bring you to a set of content folders each containing the assignments for a particular week. The assignment folder will remain available until the due date has passed, at which point it will no longer be accessible.

**Student Resources:** Resources include links to videos, journal articles, periodicals

**Discussions:** This button links directly to the discussion board. There you will have access to every available discussion thread. Links to weekly discussions are also provided in the content folders. If you have questions about material covered that week, this is the place to post them.

**Office & Contact Info:** This link will provide all my contact information as well as a photo. My email address is a hyperlink, so that you can simply click the address to send me an email.

**Online Presence while this is an online class with no in-person meetings, there is still an expectation that you will visit the classroom page on a regular basis. Assignments and discussions must be completed in a timely fashion. Discussions are also intended to be an exchange of ideas, allowing us to respond to each other. Posting to the discussion board just before the deadline (when required) does not allow others to respond to your posts.**

Students who wish to meet and talk about course related issues are asked to make an appointment. Students should feel free to contact me via email. I check my email daily and this is the best way to reach me. **Students are asked to send email from a Kingsborough email account** (the College's spam blocker may reject an "unusual" email address). **Please include "POL 7200 ONLINE" in the subject heading.** I will not reply to anonymous emails. If you do not hear from me, assume that I have not received your email. I do not accept claims that email was sent if I have not received it. In order to reply to as many emails as possible, I tend to keep my responses brief.

## Technology

### Writing Intensive Course Statement

This course meets the college's writing intensive graduation requirement. During the semester, you will write informally to express course content in your own words and write at least one formal paper in drafts with feedback from your instructor. Your work on writing, informal and formal, will comprise at least 30% of the final grade for this course and you can expect to revise some 8-10 pages of formal writing.

**Blackboard:** This course is fully online; therefore, all students must have access to Blackboard. This syllabus, announcements, PowerPoint, articles, links, podcasts, essays, assignments and grades will be posted there for your review. Additionally, you will be able to blog about the course and assignments. The intention is to have the course's Blackboard site be completely interactive.

- **The Student Help Desk in the Library L106, or L107**
- **The Cyber Lounge in the MAC M200**
- **Room M224 (MAC)**
- Call the help line at 718-368-6679

You will be given quizzes and a final exam both of which will be drawn directly from the assigned texts and articles, internet assignments, class lectures, and class discussion.

### **Movies/Audio Programs**

We will view and discuss a few movies and/or other audio-visual programs on relevant topics during the semester, and you will be required to discuss them in light of course material and when assigned possibly write a reaction paper as part of your participation grade.

### **Course Conduct**

I strongly believe that an individual learns better by hearing, seeing and doing rather than simply hearing. Therefore, this course will be active rather than passive. You will get the most out of this course by:

- **Entering into discussions**
- **Giving freely of your experiences**
- **Confining your discussion to the topic**
- **Saying what you think**
- **Appreciating the other person's point of view**

### **Civility in the Classroom**

**Kingsborough Community College is committed to the highest standards of academic and ethical integrity, acknowledging that respect for self and others is the foundation of educational excellence.**

**Civility in the course room and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the course room, yet courteous behavior and responses are expected. Therefore, in this class, any acts of harassment and/or discrimination based on matters of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and/or ability are not acceptable.**

Whether we are students, faculty, or staff, we have a right to be in a safe environment, free of disturbance, and civil in all aspects of human relations.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

All work submitted in this course must be your own. This includes all practicum, research papers, and any other projects required by me. The submission of another person's work represented as that of your own without properly citing the source of the work will be considered plagiarism and will result in an unsatisfactory grade for the work submitted or for the entire course and may result in academic dismissal. To avoid plagiarism, do not "copy and paste" into any assignments without using quotations marks and citing in APA format the source of the material. Your work may be submitted to TurnItIn.com and/or similar sources for originality evaluation.

Plagiarism, submitting work that is not your own, whether taking certain passages or whole papers off the Internet or having someone else write the paper for you, is a violation of the college's academic integrity policy. See <http://www.cuny.edu/about/info/policies/academic-integrity.pdf>.

### **Accessibility Statement**

Access-Ability Services (AAS) serves as a liaison and resource to the KCC community regarding disability issues, promotes equal access to all KCC programs and activities, and makes every reasonable effort to provide appropriate accommodations and assistance to students with disabilities. Your instructor will make the accommodations you need once you provide documentation from the Access-Ability office (D-205). Please contact AAS for assistance.

### **Grading Scale**

The following scale is specific to this class and may not be the same as other classes you are taking.

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	50-59

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNED READING**

COURSE OUTLINE- *Instructor reserves the right to make revisions as needed*

**Assignments below are to be completed by the deadline, Sunday by 11:59PM. Requests for extensions will NOT be granted.**

### **Unit I: “AN INTRODUCTION TO DIVERSITY, MULTICULTURALISM, AND CULTURAL SPECIFICS”**

#### **September 12<sup>th</sup> Session 1**

##### Chapter 1

- “What is Multiculturalism and Diversity?”
- “Effective Interaction and Communication: Ingredients for Coexisting”
- Chapter 2 (“Group Dynamics, Communication, and Social Interaction”)

**HOMEWORK** Introduce yourself and add a picture to your email

What role does diversity play in the strength of the collective conscience or morality of a society?

#### **September 20<sup>th</sup> Session 2**

- “Rikers Island: An American Jail -Documentary  
<https://youtu.be/J6JH4OGqIU0>

**HOMEWORK:** What do you think are human, psychological, and spiritual impacts of incarceration that are consistent regardless if the jail is urban or rural or large vs. small

#### **September 26<sup>th</sup> Session 3**

- “African Americans, Crime, and Justice”
  - Chapter 3 (“African Americans and the Criminal Justice System”)

**HOMEWORK:** Why do you think African Americans are overrepresented in the crime statistics? What role, if any does the legacy of slavery play in the involvement of African Americans in crime?

#### **Initial Final Essay Planning**

### **Unit II: “CULTURAL SPECIFICS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM”**

#### **October 3<sup>rd</sup> Session 4**

Hispanic Americans, Crime, and Justice”

- Chapter 4 (“Hispanic Americans and the Criminal Justice System”)

**HOMEWORK** ANSWER DISCUSSION QUESTION# 1 Page # 85

**Research Essay Topic Outline with 5 Scholarly References Due**

*April 8<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> NO CLASS*

**October 10<sup>th</sup> Session 5**

- “Asian Americans, Crime, and Justice”
  - Chapter 5 (“Asian Americans and the Criminal Justice System”)
- “Native Americans, Crime, and Justice”
  - Chapter 6 (“Native Americans and the Criminal Justice System”)

**HOMEWORK:** Why do you think Asian Americans are underrepresented in the crime statistics?

**October 17<sup>th</sup> Session 6**

- “Women, Crime, and Justice”
- Women and Incarceration: A Talk with Susan Burton: <https://youtu.be/3wEppkUYttg>
- “LBGTQS, Crime, and Justice”  
Getting Gay; [https://youtu.be/QwA1\\_EtuKig](https://youtu.be/QwA1_EtuKig)

**HOMEWORK:** Why have females become increasingly involved in the criminal justice system?

**MID-TERM EXAM OPENS 12:01AM**

**October 24<sup>th</sup> Session 7**

- “The Elderly and the Criminal Justice System”

America’s Elderly Prisoner Boom: <https://youtu.be/jXnQz2CqzYg>

Angola Prison Hospice: Opening the Door: <https://youtu.be/mMLjANwBRDk>

Dying Inside: Elderly in Prison [https://youtu.be/RCw\\_5gfBzVs](https://youtu.be/RCw_5gfBzVs)

**Homework:** What responsibility does the government have to provide comprehensive healthcare to the elderly that is incarcerated?

**MID-TERM EXAM CLOSSES 11:59PM**

**Unit III: “CULTURAL SPECIFICS, POLICING, AND THE COURTS”**

**October 31<sup>st</sup> Session 8**

- “Youths, Delinquency, and the Criminal Justice System”  
Kids Behind Bars: <https://youtu.be/xQJYEB-E4e8>

**HOMEWORK:** Do you think the juvenile justice system should be abolished and all those in the criminal justice system be treated as adults/ why or Why not?

**Continue to Write Essay**

**November 7<sup>th</sup> Session 9**

- “Policing, Diversity, and Multiculturalism”
  - Chapter 11 (“Policing and Multiculturalism”)
- “Diversity, Multiculturalism, and the Courts”
  - Chapter 12 (“Courts and Multiculturalism”)

**November 14<sup>th</sup> Session 10**

- “Corrections, Diversity, and Multiculturalism”
  - Chapter 13 (“Corrections and Multiculturalism”)

**HOMEWORK ANSWER DISCUSSION QUESTION# 4 Page 347**

**November 21<sup>st</sup> Session 11**

- “Confronting and Prepping for Diversity”
- Chapter 14 (“Preparing for Multiculturalism and Diversity: Training and Policy”)

**HOMEWORK ANSWER DISCUSSION QUESTION# 5**

Unit IV: “*MULTICULTURALISM, CORRECTIONS AND ONWARD*”

**December 5<sup>th</sup> Session 12**

***FINAL EXAM OPENS 12:01AM***

- “A Look at What’s Ahead for Multiculturalism and Criminal Justice”
- Chapter 15 (“The Future of Multiculturalism”)

**Course Overview**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> Session 13**

***FINAL EXAM CLOSERS 11:59PM***

***Final Essay Due***

**Final Essay Due  
No Late Papers Accepted**