

The Politics of Crime and Policing in the United States

Spring 2018

Instructor: Matthew Vaz, Ph.D.

Email: mvaz@barnard.edu

Texts to Purchase:

Michael W. Flamm, *Law and Order: Street Crime, Civil Unrest, and the Crisis of Liberalism in the 1960s* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005).

LaShawn Harris, *Sex Workers, Psychics and Numbers Runners: Black Women in New York City's Underground Economy* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2016).

Elizabeth Hinton, *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2016).

Michael A. Lerner, *Dry Manhattan: Prohibition in New York City* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007).

All other readings not required for purchase will be available on Courseworks.

Learning Outcomes:

- You will develop a strong grasp of the major issues, themes, and debates relating to the history of crime and policing in United States History since the late 19th century.
- You will analyze and examine the development of the criminal justice system in the United States.
- You will evaluate the manner in which race, ethnicity, class and gender have interacted with the law and the administration of justice
- You will analyze how the categories of normalcy and deviance have been employed to organize American society.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are: to gain familiarity with the major themes in the history of crime and policing since the late 19th century, to learn to think historically, and to learn to think and write critically about normalcy and deviance. We will also examine and analyze the development of the criminal justice system and how it has shaped and been shaped by the broader political and social context.

Course requirements:

Class Attendance and Participation – (25% of grade)

Paper #1 (25% of grade)

Paper #2 (25% of grade)

Final Exam – (25% of grade)

Schedule of Classes

Wed. 1/17 – Introduction

Mon. 1/22 – Lecture - Criminology and Theory

Wed. 1/24 – Lecture - Uniformed Police

Mon. 1/29 - Lecture – The Draft Riots and the Discovery of Disorder

Wed. 1/31 – Lecture - The Prison in the 19th Century

Mon. 2/5 – **Class Discussion** – Reading: Timothy Gilfoyle “America’s Greatest Criminal Barracks: the Tombs and the Experience of Criminal Justice in New York City, 1838-1897,” *Journal of Urban History*, July 2003; Marcy S. Sacks, “To Show Who’s in Charge’: Police Repression of New York City’s Black Population at the Turn of the Twentieth Century,” *Journal of Urban History*, September 2005; Christopher Thale, “The Informal World of Police Patrol: New York City in the Early Twentieth Century,” *Journal of Urban History*, January 2007.

Wed. 2/7 – Lecture – Lynching, Race, Crime and Hysteria

Mon. 2/12 – **Class Discussion** – Reading: James W. Clarke, “Without Fear or Shame: Lynching, Capital Punishment and the Subculture of Violence in the American South,” *British Journal of Political Science*, April 1998; William D. Carrigan, “The Lynching of Persons of Mexican Origins or Descent in the United States, 1848-1928,” *Journal of Social History*, Winter 2003; Oliver Cromwell Cox, “Lynching and the Status Quo,” *Journal of Negro Education*, vol. 14, no. 4, Autumn 1945.

Wed. 2/14 - Lecture - The Holy Trinity of Vice: Drinking, Gambling, and Prostitution

Mon. 2/19 - **Class Discussion** - Stephen Robertson, "Harlem Undercover: Vice Investigators, Race and Prostitution, 1910-1930," *Journal of Urban History*, May 2009; Mark Wild, "Red Light Kaleidoscope: Prostitution and Ethnoracial Relations in Los Angeles, 1880-1940," *Journal of Urban History*, September 2002; Leslie J. Reagan, "About to Meet her Maker: Women, Doctors, Dying Declarations, and the State's Investigation of Abortion, Chicago, 1867-1940," *Journal of American History*, March 1991; Jeffrey Wiltse, "I like to Get Around: City Girls in Chicago Music Saloons, 1858-1906," *Journal of Urban History*, November 2013.

Wed. 2/21- **Lecture and Discussion**- Prohibition and the Politics of Alcohol - Reading: Michael A. Lerner, *Dry Manhattan*.

Mon. 2/26 - Lecture- Organized Gambling and the Discovery of Harlem -

Wed. 2/28 - **Class Discussion** - Reading: LaShawn Harris, *Sex Workers Psychics and Numbers Runners*.

Mon. 3/5 -Lecture - Race and Riots: 1919-1943.

Wed. 3/7- Lecture - Policing Labor and Policing Politics - **PAPER #1 DUE**

Mon. 3/12 - Spring Break

Wed. 3/14 - Spring Break

Mon. 3/19 -Lecture - Moral Panic and Juvenile Delinquency

Wed. 3/21 -**Lecture and Discussion** - Youth Gangs of the Postwar Period - Reading: Eric Schneider, "Defending Place: Ethnicity and Territory," and "Becoming Men," in *Vampires, Dragons and Egyptian Kings*.

Mon. 3/26- **Lecture and Discussion** - Gambling as a National Conspiracy - Reading: Daniel Bell, "Crime as an American Way of Life"; "Legalized Gambling in New York?" *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, May 1950; Mark Haller, "The Changing Structure of American Gambling in the Twentieth Century," *Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 35, no. 5, 1979. Matthew Vaz, "We Intend to Run It: Racial Politics, Illegal Gambling, and the Rise of Government Lotteries in the United States, 1960-1985," *Journal of American History*, June, 2014.

Wed. 3/ 28- Lecture - The Due Process Revolution

Mon. 4/2 - **Class Discussion** - Reading: Michael W. Flamm, *Law and Order: Street Crime, Civil Unrest, and the Crisis of Liberalism in the 1960s*

Wed. 4/4- Lecture - Policing as Work and the Changing face of Policing

Mon. 4/9 - **Class Discussion** -Elizabeth Hinton, *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime*.

Wed. 4/11 - Lecture - From Victimless Crimes to the Rockefeller Drug Laws

Mon. 4/16 - **Lecture and Discussion** - Broken Windows and Zero Tolerance Policing - Reading: James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling, "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety," *The Atlantic*, March, 1982.

Wed. 4 /18 - Lecture - The Criminalization of Poverty

Mon. 4/23 - Lecture - Technology and Surveillance

Wed. 4/25- Lecture - The Border and Crime. **PAPER # 2 DUE**

Mon. 4/30 - The 2016 Election and the Rhetoric of Insecurity