

## Videos that May be of Interest

- If you want to watch a TV show that is super sociological and looks at the issues that we are studying check out *The Wire*.
- Here's a news episode on one of the topics that we are discussing in this unit on the criminal justice system if you are interested in learning more about this: *Fault Lines: Deadly Force: Arming America's Police*: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vciY\\_1e8n2o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vciY_1e8n2o)
- This BBC video describes the aftermath of deindustrialization in Gary, Indiana (directly relevant to what we are discussing today): [http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/newsnight/paulmason/2010/10/gary\\_indiana\\_unbroken\\_spirit\\_a.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/newsnight/paulmason/2010/10/gary_indiana_unbroken_spirit_a.html)
- Academic study on race and prejudice among millennials: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/biases-back-mind-affect-feel-race/>

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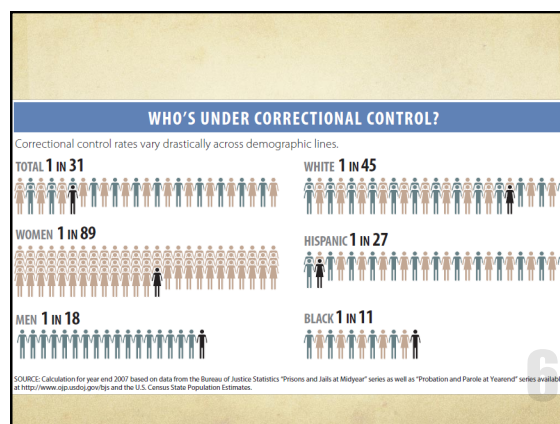
- Stop and Frisk case in NYC (April 4, 2013): [http://www.democracynow.org/2013/4/4/testimony\\_recordings\\_at\\_trial\\_reveal\\_the](http://www.democracynow.org/2013/4/4/testimony_recordings_at_trial_reveal_the)
- School & Housing "Choice" Programs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXWzsu4got0>
- Sesame Street on incarceration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDUdniEig38>
- Ferguson's police department, and the racial discrimination: [http://www.democracynow.org/2015/3/4/michelle\\_alexander\\_ferguson\\_shows\\_why\\_criminal](http://www.democracynow.org/2015/3/4/michelle_alexander_ferguson_shows_why_criminal)

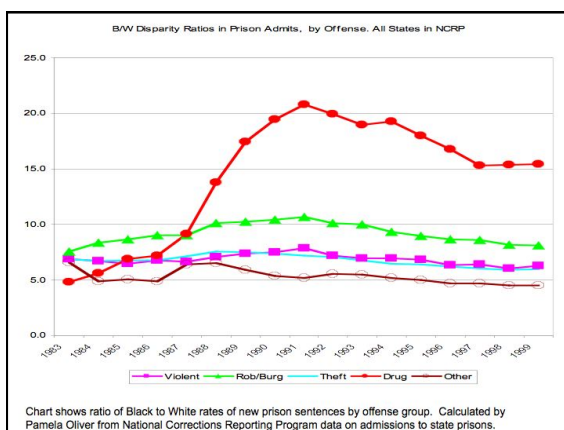
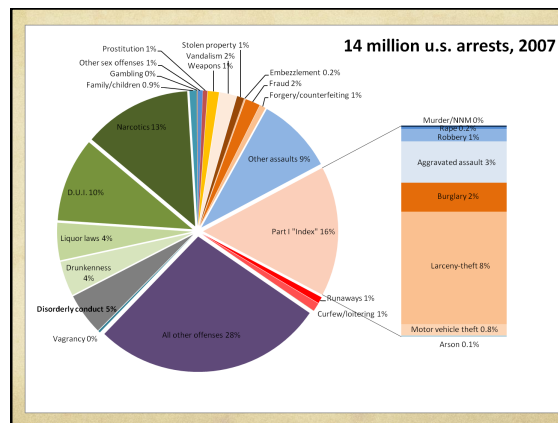
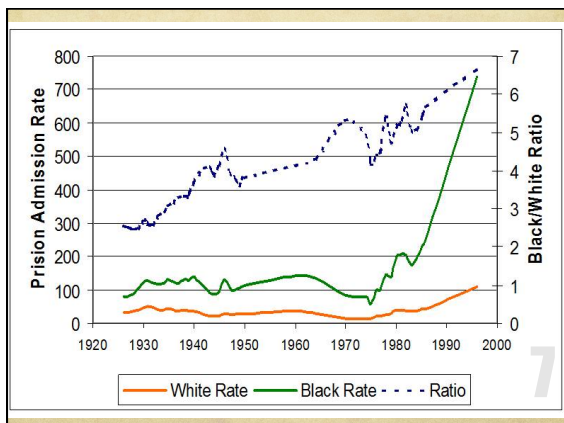
## Covered Thus Far

- Immigrant Rights Mobilization of 2006
- Asian-Americans and the Model Minority Stereotype
- Race and health

## Class Agenda

- The criminal justice system





## Wacquant

- Slavery, the Jim Crow system, the ghetto, and the criminal justice system are a series of institutions that have racialized the socially constructed boundary setting African Americans apart
- Nixon's War on Crime in the 1970s
- Reagan's War on Drugs in the 1980s
- Dismantlement of social welfare programs and offshoring of manufacturing
- "As the concentration of poverty rose, moreover, so did the spatial concentration of anything correlated with poverty – crime, violence, single-parenthood, joblessness, dependency, and addiction – and thus a remarkably disadvantaged social and economic environment was created for African-Americans" (Wacquant 111).

## Wacquant

- Shift from the social to the penal handling of poverty as our notion of public responsibility and the role of the state has changed (neoliberal restructuring of the state).
- "The increasing reliance of the criminal justice system on incarceration was achieved by specific legislative actions that eliminated judicial flexibility in sentencing, curtailed parole authority, established mandatory minimum sentences, and increased prison terms for repeat offenses" (Wacquant 97).
- The criminal justice system shifted from a focus on correction and rehabilitation to an emphasis on retribution and punishment.

Media Coverage in Wake of Hurricane Katrina – from the same slideshow of pictures released by Associated Press



"Two residents waded through chest-deep water after finding bread and soda from a local grocery."

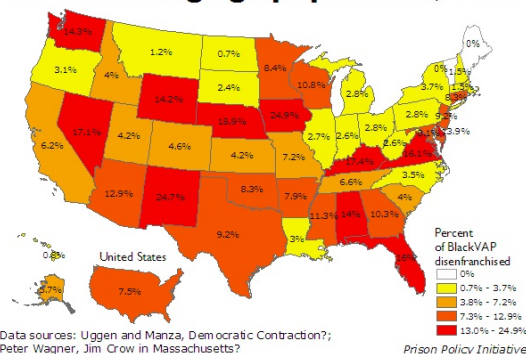


"A young man walks through chest-deep flood water after looting a grocery store in New Orleans."

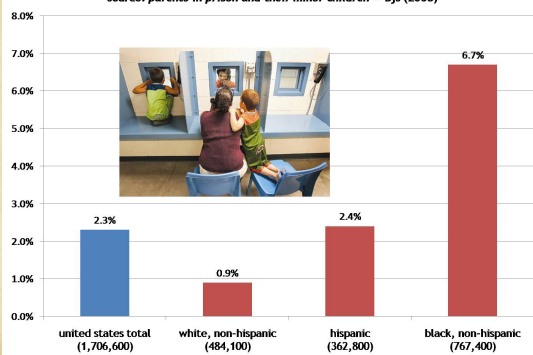
## Wacquant

- The reconstruction of the imagined community of Americans
- The criminal justice system has become the main institution for race making today.
- “Youth Control Complex”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUv93rjxzGM>
- The convict stigma, social control, and symbolic branding

## Disenfranchisement of Black voting age population, 2000



minor children in u.s. with a parent in prison, by race  
source: parents in prison and their minor children -- bjs (2008)



## Impact on Family, Health & Work

- “More than one in 28 children have a parent locked up behind bars—that’s 2.7 million children in United States, according to a report by the [Pew Charitable Trusts](#). Only 25 years ago that number was 1 in 125.”
- Mental and physical health implications of incarceration
- Double-stigmatization in the labor market

## Clicker Question

Do you think we need to reform the criminal justice system?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not sure

Discussion: If so, how? If not, why not?

## Law Enforcement

- Sean Bell
- Trayvon Martin
- Michael Brown
- Findings of DOJ report on Ferguson police
- Militarization of the police:  
[http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=10231](http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=10231)



## Clicker Question

Do you think the militarization of the police is:

- A. Necessary?
- B. Something that should be stopped?
- C. Not sure

**Discussion:** How did you answer and why? What do you think of the increasing use of SWAT in policing?

## #Black Lives Matter

- “When we say Black Lives Matter, we are talking about the ways in which Black people are deprived of our basic human rights and dignity. It is an acknowledgement that Black poverty and genocide is state violence” (Alicia Garza).

## #Black Lives Matter

- “When we are able to end hyper-criminalization and sexualization of Black people and end the poverty, control, and surveillance of Black people, every single person in this world has a better shot at getting and staying free. When Black people get free, everybody gets free. This is why we call on Black people and our allies to take up the call that Black lives matter. We’re not saying Black lives are more important than other lives, or that other lives are not criminalized and oppressed in various ways. We remain in active solidarity with all oppressed people who are fighting for their liberation and we know that our destinies are intertwined”

## #Black Lives Matter

“We perpetuate a level of White supremacist domination by reproducing a tired trope that we are all the same, rather than acknowledging that non-Black oppressed people in this country are both impacted by racism and domination, and simultaneously, BENEFIT from anti-black racism” (Alicia Garza).

## #Black Lives Matter

“And, perhaps more importantly, when Black people cry out in defense of our lives, which are uniquely, systematically, and savagely targeted by the state, we are asking you, our family, to stand with us in affirming Black lives. Not just all lives. Black lives. Please do not change the conversation by talking about how your life matters, too. It does, but we need less watered down unity and a more active solidarities with us, Black people, unwaveringly, in defense of our humanity” (Alicia Garza).

## Demands of #Black Lives Matter

- We want freedom for our communities.
- We Want an End to all Forms of Discrimination and the Full Recognition of our Human Rights
- We Want An Immediate End To Police Brutality And the Murder Of Black, Brown & All Oppressed People
- We Want Full Employment For Our People
- We Want Decent Housing Fit For The Shelter Of Human Beings
- We Want an End to the School to Prison Pipeline & Quality Education for All
- We Want Freedom from Mass Incarceration and an End to the Prison Industrial Complex
- The De-militarization of Local Law Enforcement across the country

## Demands of #Black Lives Matter

- A Comprehensive Review of systemic abuses by local police departments
- Repurposing of law enforcement funds to support community based alternatives to incarceration and the conditioning of DOJ funding on the ending of discriminatory policing
- A Congressional Hearing investigating the criminalization of communities of color, racial profiling, police abuses and torture by law enforcement
- Support the Passage of the End Racial Profiling Act
- A National Plan of Action for Racial Justice

## Learning Goals

- Understand patterns and changes in the criminal justice system and law enforcement over time, and their causes.
- Understand the impacts of incarceration and racial discrimination in law enforcement on individuals, families, and communities.
- Understand why the #Black Lives Matter movement emerged and its demands.

## Exam Review Questions

1. What kind of patterns and changes have we seen within the criminal justice system over the last 30 years (e.g., how have incarceration rates changed and who is incarcerated)?
2. What are the series of institutions that Wacquant argues have racialized the socially constructed boundary setting African Americans apart and when did each emerge?
3. What happened in places like Gary, Indiana in the wake of deindustrialization?
4. What public policies under which administrations contributed to the increase in incarceration in the U.S.?
5. What does Wacquant argue about the role of the prison and its relationship to the economy?

## Exam Review Questions

1. What does Wacquant argue about the ghetto and its relationship to the prison?
2. What does Wacquant argue about the shift in the way poverty is handled in U.S. society?
3. What does Wacquant mean by the neoliberal restructuring of the state?
4. According to Wacquant, how has the focus of the criminal justice system shifted?
5. What role has the media and politicians played in linking African-Americans to criminality? Give an example of each.

## Exam Review Questions

1. According to Wacquant, how has the imagined community of Americans been reconstructed?
2. What does Victor Rios argue? What is the youth control complex?
3. What are the civic impacts of incarceration?
4. What kind of impacts does incarceration have on families?
5. What kind of impacts can incarceration have on health?
6. What is the double-stigmatization that impacts labor market outcome?

## Exam Review Questions

1. How and when did the militarization of law enforcement come about?
2. What happened to Sean Bell, Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown?
3. What did the DOJ investigation of the Ferguson police department find?
4. When did the #Black Lives Matter movement emerge and why? What are their demands?

## Homework

- Finish readings by Wacquant, Davis et.al, "A HerStory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement," Mettler and Piven et. al