

CLJ and the American City

Criminology, Law, and Justice #493

Fall 2021

Draft as of Nov 1, 2021

Instructor

Rahim Kurwa: rak@uic.edu

Office: BSB 4050D

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:15am-12:15pm.

Or email to schedule a phone/video call.

Teaching Assistant

Elena Powell: epowel9@uic.edu

Office:

Office Hours:

Location and Time

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-4:45pm

Location: Lincoln Hall 206

Course Description

This course explores themes in criminology, law, and justice in the context of American cities. It uses St. Louis as a case study. Each week, we'll read a chapter from Walter Johnson's *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States*, as well as one complementary reading that helps put that chapter into better context (either historically or nationally). On Tuesdays, we'll discuss the book chapter, and on Thursdays we'll talk about the other reading.

The goal of this course is to help you learn to analyze other cities in the way Johnson studied St. Louis. To that end, the major assignment in the course is a 20 page final paper on a city. During the first few weeks of the semester, you should think through possible cities and topics you are interested in, and we'll be spending some time each week discussing your ideas and options.

There will be many steps along the way to writing the final paper, in terms of memos, literature reviews, and drafting. These will be graded and will be opportunities for feedback as you develop your ideas and projects. The course will end with student presentations related to the final papers.

Finally, this course will change a lot over time - the syllabus is not stuck in concrete. I will make changes that help this course better fit your interests, workload, and feedback.

Assigned Texts

- Required: Johnson, Walter. *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States*. Basic Books, 2020
- All other readings will be posted to Blackboard

Assignments and Grading

- Participation 20%
- Literature Review 10%
- Partial Draft 1 10%
- Partial Draft 2 10%
- Presentation 15%
- Final Paper 35%

Course Schedule

Week 1 - Introduction

Weekly Readings:

- August 24 - Johnson, Prologue (12 pages)
- August 26 - Robin D.G. Kelley. What Did Cedric Robinson Mean by Racial Capitalism?
<http://bostonreview.net/race/robin-d-g-kelley-what-did-cedric-robinson-mean-racial-capitalism>

Week 2: Settler Colonialism

Weekly Readings:

- August 31 - Johnson, Chapter 1, "William Clark's Map" (26 pages)
- September 3 - Ablavsky, Gregory. 2014. "The Savage Constitution." Duke Law Journal 63 (5): 999–1089. (read the Introduction and Part 1, about 35 pages total)

Week 3: Settler Colonialism

Weekly Readings:

- September 7 - Johnson, Chapter 2, "War to the Rope" (30 pages)
- September 9 - Park, K-Sue. 2021. "Conquest and Slavery as Foundational to Property Law." (read the Introduction and Part 4)

Choose your city

Week 4: The Slavery Era

Weekly Readings:

- September 14 - Johnson, Chapter 3, "No Rights the White Man is Bound to Respect" (32 pages)
- September 16 - Prince, Carl E. 1985. "The Great 'Riot Year': Jacksonian Democracy and Patterns of Violence in 1834." Journal of the Early Republic 5 (1): 1–19.

Week 5: The Civil War Era

Weekly Readings:

- September 21 - Johnson, Chapter 4, "Empire and the Limits of Revolution" (32 pages)
- September 23 - Companion: TBD based on your city choices

Choose one to two major topics to study about your city, in advance of Week 6 library instruction

Week 6: The Reconstruction Era

Weekly Readings:

- September 28 - Johnson, Chapter 5, "Black Reconstruction and the Counterrevolution of Property" (38 pages)
- September 30 - **Library instruction day**

Week 7: The Reconstruction Era Continued

Weekly Readings:

- October 5 - Williams, Jhacova A., Trevon D. Logan, and Bradley L. Hardy. 2021. "The Persistence of Historical Racial Violence and Political Suppression: Implications for Contemporary Regional Inequality." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 694 (1): 92–107.
- October 7 - Literature Review Workshop

Writing Assignment 1 Due - Literature Review

Week 8: Criminalization

Weekly Readings:

- October 12 - Johnson, Chapter 7, "The Shape of Fear" (32 pages)
- October 14 - Tuttle Jr, William M. "Contested neighborhoods and racial violence: Prelude to the Chicago riot of 1919." *The Journal of Negro History* 55, no. 4 (1970): 266-288.

Week 9: Economic Struggles

Weekly Readings:

- October 19 - Johnson, Chapter 8, "Not Poor, Just Broke" (38 pages)
- October 21 - Attoe, Wayne, and Mark Latus. "The First Public Housing: Sewer Socialism's Garden City for Milwaukee." *Journal of Popular Culture* 10, no. 1 (1976): 142. On the Great Depression, anti eviction strikes, Chicago, New Deal.

- **October 21 - Writing Workshop**

	Rahim	Elena
3:30-3:45	Jesus	Cynthia
3:45-4:00	Leticia	Ashley
4:00-4:15	Jonathan	Nelson
4:15-4:30	Luis	Sergio
4:30-4:45	Beyonce	

Week 10: Housing

Weekly Readings:

- October 26 - Johnson, Chapter 9, “Black Removal by White Approval” (45 pages)
- October 28 - Watch “The Myth of Pruitt-Igoe”
<https://uic.kanopy.com/video/pruitt-igoe-myth-0>

Writing Assignment 2 Due - Partial Draft

Week 11: Policing

Weekly Readings:

- November 2 - Johnson, Chapter 10, “Defensible Space” (48 pages)
- November 4 - Kurwa, Rahim. 2020. “The New Man in the House Rules: How the Regulation of Housing Vouchers Turns Personal Bonds Into Eviction Liabilities.” Housing Policy Debate 30 (6): 926–49.
- Example presentation will be given in class

Week 12: Ferguson

Weekly Readings:

- November 9 - Johnson, Chapter 11, “How Long?” (44 pages)
- November 11 - Watch “The Prison in 12 Landscapes”
<https://uic.kanopy.com/video/prison-twelve-landscapes-1>
- <https://uic.kanopy.com/video/whose-streets>

Week 13: Presentations

Weekly Readings:

- November 16 - Johnson, Epilogue (9 pages)
- November 18 - Presentations

- Ashley V

Week 14: No Class, Thanksgiving Break

Week 15: Presentations

Weekly Readings:

- November 30 - Presentations
 - Jonathan
 - Jesus
 - Cynthia
- December 2 - Presentations
 - Sergio
 - Nelson
 - Beyonce
 - Luis

Final Paper Due Sunday, December 5th

Other policies and resources

Academic Misconduct: Instances of academic misconduct by students will be handled pursuant to the Student Disciplinary Policy.

Attendance: Attendance is key to success in this class and is an important part of the grade. Exams will be based on material from lecture and readings, and lectures will help students interpret and contextualize readings. I will not take attendance at every class session. But when I do, students will be allowed to miss once for any reason (no medical or other reason required). If you have a serious barrier to attendance, please contact me.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities who require accommodations for full access and participation in UIC programs should make an appointment with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) <https://drc.uic.edu/>. Please contact DRC at 312-413-2183 or 312-413-0123 (TDD) for assistance. Please discuss any accommodations with the professor. Whether you are registered or not, I also encourage you to discuss with me any potential accommodations, barriers or ways to improve your participation and learning in the class. You do not need formal documentation to come talk to me.

Additional Support: If you find yourself having difficulty in the class, please ask for help. I am committed to helping students reach their full potential in this course. If you have an issue beyond this class, please contact your college advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus. You can get a referral to the right place, or help on the spot, from advisors in the Undergraduate Success Center (USC) at usc@uic.edu

Counseling Services: You may seek free and confidential services from the Counseling Center www.counseling.uic.edu. The Counseling Center is located in the Student Services building. You may contact them at 312-996-3490. In addition to offering counseling services, the Counseling Center also operates the InTouch Crisis Hotline from 6:00 pm – 10:30 pm. They offer support and referrals to callers, as well as telephone crisis interventions at 312-996-5535.

Office Hours: Office hours refers to a student's chance to meet with the Professor in a one on one or small group setting. These are an opportunity for you to ask questions about the lectures, readings, the course, or other relevant issues. You have a right to the time blocked off for office hours, and I encourage you to take advantage of it by visiting office hours (at BSB 4050D) this semester. If you cannot make the times marked out, please let me know and we can make alternate arrangements.

Sexual Misconduct: If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources by contacting the Office for Access and Equity, <http://oae.uic.edu/>, 312-996-8670. Please note: Faculty, teaching assistants, and other university employees are mandated reporters of any specific incidents of sexual or gender-based violence or harassment. Thus, any disclosures of sexual or gender-based violence or harassment on or off campus made to faculty or teaching assistants, or other university employees would be forwarded to the

Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Office will then contact you regarding your rights, your option to participate in the investigation, interim safety measures and/or academic accommodations, and the need to proceed with an investigation (even if none is requested). Your participation in the process is voluntary. To make a report to UIC's Title IX office, contact Rebecca Gordon, EdD at TitleIX@uic.edu or (312) 996-5657

Religious Holidays: Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the faculty member by the tenth day of the semester of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, the student shall notify the faculty member at least five days in advance of the date when he/she will be absent. The faculty member shall make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize the student for missing the class, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, give the student an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed by those students in attendance. If the student feels aggrieved, he/she may request remedy through the campus grievance procedure. <http://oae.uic.edu/docs/ReligiousHolidaysFY20152017.pdf>

Grievance procedure: UIC is committed to the most fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity involving students and employees. Freedom from discrimination is a foundation for all decision making at UIC. Students are encouraged to study the University's "[Nondiscrimination Statement](#)". Students are also urged to read the document "[Public Formal Grievance Procedures](#)". Information on these policies and procedures is available on the University web pages of the Office of Access and Equity: <http://oae.uic.edu/>.

University Policies

- [Student Policies](#)
- [Student Handbook](#)
- [COVID-19 Policy Updates](#)

Student Resources

- [General UIC Resources](#)
- [Office of the Dean of Students](#)
- [COVID-19 Student Resources](#)
- [Disability Resource Center](#)
- [Wellness Center](#)
- [Campus Life Resources](#)