POLS 3353: Civil Rights and Liberties
Spring 2023

Just Mercy Book Report
DUE: 2/7 by 10AM

Upon reading Just Mercy, you will submit a book report summarizing the book, writing about your key takeaways, and further analyzing one policy issue raised in the book.

Prompt:

1. **Part 1: Briefly summarize the book**. You do not need to go chapter by chapter, but instead highlight the main issues Stevenson discusses through his experiences.

2. **Part 2: Identify three key takeaways** from the book and explain why these impacted you.

3. **Part 3: Identify one issue** brought up by Stevenson in the book and present additional research to **expand on it and update it**. First, identify the issue and mention how Stevenson discusses it. Then, research this topic further and give context to it. Possible areas to discuss: How often is this an issue or topic of consideration? What states have similar approaches? How many people are impacted? Etc. At times Stevenson does some of this in his writing, but you will want to bring in outside research from academic and government sources to paint a broader picture of how this issue exists in the United States justice system (or perhaps has changed since this books publication). *Include at least 4 outside sources to support your brief overview of this issue's impact.*

Technical:

3 to 4 Pages, Double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins

Include a Works Cited page of all your outside sources and be sure to use proper in-text citations. Use APA Style.

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Rubric:

Exam Rubric	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	<60
	A	B	C	D	F
Part I (20%)	A clear brief overview is provided that shows a full reading of the book and displays an understanding of the main themes and flow of the book.	A brief overview of provided that shows a full reading of the book, but may be somewhat vague or only show discuss certain areas of the book.	Some summary information is included but is likely general and does not get more specific than chapter titles and online information.	An insufficient summary is included with either incorrect information provided or nothing beyond basic online descriptions included.	Likely little to no information is included about the book, with no support to show that student read the book.
Part 2 (20%)	Three takeaways from the book are clearly identified and a discussion of impact is included for each one.	Three takeaways from the book are clearly identified. Discussion of impact may be vague or not included for all three.	Likely fewer than three takeaways are identified without a clear discussion of impact for most/any.	Fewer than 3 takeaways are discussed without a discussion of impact included for any.	This section is likely not addressed, with no takeaways addressed and no connection to impact.
Part 3 (50%)	An issue raised in the book is clearly identified, how Stevenson discusses it in the book is noted, and 4 quality academic articles or government report sources are used to support the updating of this issue.	An issue raised in the book is clearly identified. May briefly or not clearly note how Stevenson discusses it in the book is noted, and 4 sources are used to effectively update this issue. Sources may range in quality.	An issue raised in the book is discussed but may be overly broad or not clearly defined. May not include how Stevenson discusses in book, and likely has fewer than 4 quality sources to support update of issue.	Issue is likely not clearly identified. How Stevenson discusses it is likely not included, and evidence to update the issue is either not incorporated or only non-reliable sources are relied upon.	This section is likely not addressed, without any sources to support and perhaps only a mention of the issue of interest.
Technical (10%)	Report meets length expectations, follows formatting guidelines, and incorporates in-text citations and a reference page in APA.	Report meets length expectations, may follow most formatting guidelines, and incorporates in-text citations and a reference page but may not be in proper format.	Report likely does not meet length expectations, may not follow some formatting guidelines, and may not properly format in-text citations and reference page.	Report likely does not meet length expectations, does not follow any formatting guidelines, and provides no in-text citations but does have sources included at the end.	Report likely does not meet length expectations, does not follow any formatting guidelines, and provides no evidence to support.