

Chicano Studies 189-Chicanos, Race and the US Prison System

Spring 2006
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am-10:50am

Sequoia Hall 148

Professor: Ofelia Ortiz Cuevas
Office Hours: Tuesday and
Thursday 12:00-1:30 pm and by Appt.
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Crime and punishment are among the most important issues in contemporary US public discourse. Latinos and African Americans comprise a disproportionate and increasing number of prisoners in both state and federal prisons. The intent of this course is to examine the social conditions under which the increase of a Chicano (and African American) prison population occurs. We will therefore examine the formation of African Americans and Chicanos as racial subjects in relationship to the criminal justice system and criminal understanding. This course offers an introduction to the racialization of crime in the US. It will highlight the changing ideas of criminality in relation to African Americans and Chicanos, both historically as well as geographically. In addition this course will examine contemporary US and state policy that has sought to deter, punish, and rehabilitate its prisoners.

Primary topics include the historical myths and narratives of African American and Chicano criminals as these representations are situated within a particular historical moment as well as the patterns of violence, the role and organization of the police and policing and the evolution of punishment in theory and practice. The socio-historical focus will provide a frame to better understand US race relations in connection with the criminal justice system in order to debunk prevailing myths and false assumptions surrounding the issue of race and crime.

Grading:

Quiz	15%
Paper/Presentation	25%
Midterm	30%
Final	30%

Quarter Schedule

Week 1-Introduction-Questions of Race

Wilson, James Q. *Crime. Beyond the Color Line New Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity in America*. Stanford. Hoover Institution Press. 2002

Young, Pauline V. Defective Social Intelligence as a Factor in Crime. *American Sociological Review*. v.3 n.2 (Apr., 1938) p. 213-217.

Media Matters For America. Bill Bennett's Morning in America transcripts.

Althusser, Louis. Ideological State Apparatus. Mapping Ideology.

Page 2 Week 2-Race and History

W.E. B. Du Bois. Black Reconstruction in America 1860-1880. New York. Simon & Shuster. 1935. Introduction Ch 1-3 &

Harris, Cheryl. *Whiteness as Property*. 106 Harvard Law Review 1709-1791, 1724-1737. 1993.

14th Amendment

Wallerstein, Immanuel. *History of Capitalism*. Ch 3

Week 3-Race and Southwest Discourse

Davis Angela. Are Prisons Obsolete? New York Seven Stories Press. 2003. Chapter 2.

Mirande, Alfredo. Gringo Justice. Notre Dame. Notre Dame Press. 1985.

Paredes, Americo. With a Pistol in His Hand. Austin. University of Texas Press. 1958.

Week 4-Media Discourse and Criminology

Ross, Luanna. *Inventing the Savage: The Social Construction of Native American Criminality*. Austin. University of Texas Press. 1998. Chapter 1 & 2

Escobar, Edward J. Race, Police, and the Making of a Political Identity: Mexican Americans and the Los Angeles Police Department. Berkeley. University of California Press.

Week 5-Narrative, Economy and Crime

Escobar, Edward J. Race, Police, and the Making of a Political Identity: Mexican Americans and the Los Angeles Police Department. Berkeley. University of California Press.

Haley, Alex. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

Gambino, Ferruccio. *The Transgression of a Laborer: Malcolm X in the Wilderness*. Journal of Radical History. Winter 1993

PBS Special-The American Experience/Zoot Suit Riots

Week 6-Moral Panics, Media and Crime Policy

Bluestone, Barry & Harrison, Bennett. The Deindustrialization of America: Plant Closing, Community Abandonment, and the Dismantling of Basic Industry. New York. Basic Books. 1982.

Hall, Stuart. Policing the Crisis.

Parenti, Christian. Lockdown America : Police and Prisons in the Age of Crisis. New York. Verso. 2000.

Week 7-Crime and the State

Reeves, Jimmie Lynn and Campbell, Richard. Cracked Coverage : Television News, the Anti-Cocaine Crusade, and the Reagan Legacy. Durham . Duke University Press. 1994.

Davis, Mike. "Hammer and the Rock" from City of Quartz London. Verso Press. 1992 Donzinger,

Week 8-Discourse and Demons

Stephen. The Real War on Crime: The Report of the National Criminal Justice Commission. New York. Harper Collins. 1996.

Mauer, Marc. The Sentencing Project. 2003

Gilmore, Ruth. Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus Crisis and Opposition in Globalizing California. Berkeley. University of California Press. 2006.

Week 9-Criminalized Borders

Calavita, Kitty. Inside the State: the Bracero Program, Immigration and the INS

Davis, Mike. No One is Illegal.

Week 10-Presentations