

## SYLLABUS

## ANTHROPOLOGY OF CRIME AND CRIMINALIZATION

## ANTHROPOLOGY 3533, SECTION 101, SPRING 2021

## COURSE INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR ..... Alex Nelson

DAY/TIME.....

LOCATION .....

OFFICE HOURS .....

CONTACT .....

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course investigates the construction of lines between legality and illegality, how these lines are navigated by individuals, families, organizations, and states, and how the creation of these lines shapes human behavior. Specifically, the course explores accounts of smuggling, illicit drug use and dealing, war profiteering, bribery, undocumented migration, violence, torture, incarceration, money laundering, and commercial sex, grounded in ethnographic research. The course also examines cultures of law enforcement, and officers' own negotiations with lines of legality and illegality, specifically in regard to racial and ethnic profiling and the consequences of their law enforcement decisions. Students will also discuss the ethical challenges of conducting ethnographic research on criminalized populations and strategies for balancing needs for objectivity, engaged writing, protecting informant anonymity, and writing for non-academic audiences. Students will leave this course with a richer understanding of why people cross legal boundaries, the intended and unintended effects of laws and law enforcement strategies, and of possible solutions to addressing these effects.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To apply cultural relativism to understand outlaw and law enforcement cultures from an emic perspective.
- To critically evaluate the consequences of public policy and law enforcement strategies, both intended and unintended.
- To discuss issues of research methods and research ethics with populations with highly vulnerable, possibly dangerous and highly politicized research populations and writing about said research for a variety of audiences.

- To apply anthropological theory to ethnographic material, especially in regard to concerns of power, inequality, and health.
- To improve academic reading comprehension, summarization skills, analytical skills and presentation skills
- To practice taking on the world view of others and self reflexively challenge one's own worldview and biases
- To practice critical thinking and collegial discussion
- To improve academic writing and editing skills through drafting, reviewing and revising written works.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS

- Dewey, S. & Kelley, P. (Eds). (2011). *Policing Pleasure: Sex Work, Policy, and the State in Global Perspective*. New York, NY: New York University Press. [[Full Text free through APPsearch](#)]
- Bourgois, P. & Schonberg, J. (2009). *Righteous Dopefiend*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [[Full Text free through APPsearch](#)]
- Muehlmann, S. (2014). *When I Wear My Alligator Boots: Narco-Culture in the US-Mexico Borderlands*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [[Full Text free through APPsearch](#)]
- Nordstrom, C. (2007). *Global Outlaws: Crime, Money, and Power in the Contemporary World*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [[Full Text free through APPsearch](#); [Excerpts in AsULearn](#)]
- Holmes, S. (2013). *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [[Full Text free through APPsearch](#)]
- Fassin, D. (2013). *Enforcing Order: An Ethnography of Urban Policing*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press. [[Excerpts in AsULearn](#)]
- Ralph, L. (2020). *The Torture Letters: Reckoning with Police Violence*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. [[Excerpt in AsULearn](#)]
- Fassin, D. (2017). *Prison Worlds: An Ethnography of the Carceral Condition*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press. [[Excerpt in AsULearn](#)]
- Dewey, S. et al. (2019). *Outlaw Women: Prison, Rural Violence, and Poverty in the American West*. New York, NY: New York University Press. [[Full Text free through APPsearch](#); [Excerpts in AsULearn](#)]
- Osburg, J. (2013). *Anxious Wealth: Money and Morality among China's New Rich*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. [[Excerpt in AsULearn](#)]

## GRADING CRITERIA

Class Participation and Attendance .....	20%
Discussion Leader (2x 10% each).....	20%
Midterm Exam .....	20%
Final Paper (40%)	
Paper Draft .....	10%
Peer Review .....	10%
Revised Final Paper .....	20%

**Participation and Attendance (20%).** You are expected to attend and participate in every weekly class meeting via Zoom. Each unexcused absence will result in losing 6.67% of your participation grade. Missing a substantial part of class may result in a 3% loss and attending without participating in class discussion may result in a 3% deduction from your participation/attendance grade. Attendance and participation will be recorded by the instructor each week.

**Discussion Leader (20%).** During the first week of class you will indicate your preference for readings to lead discussion on during class. The instructor will assign each student two readings they must lead discussion on based on each student's indicated preference. One of these readings will be from the first half of the class and one will be from the second half. Discussion leaders are responsible for briefly summarizing their assigned reading for the class (3-5 minutes) in an informal oral speech during the zoom meeting for that reading. Secondly, the discussion leader should prepare three or more questions to facilitate class discussion of the reading. These should be questions that classmates can reasonably discuss and debate. Discussion leaders are expected to be active in the discussion of their assigned reading, not only by posing their discussion questions but by providing their own responses and engaging with the responses of their classmates. Each turn as discussion leader will be worth 10% of your overall grade for the course.

**Midterm Exam (20%).** The Midterm exam will consist short answer and short essay questions from weeks 2-8 of the course. The midterm will be held during class time with students being given 90 minutes to complete and submit the exam.

**Final Paper (40%).** The final paper for this course will require students to draw from the required texts to support an argument in response to one of two prompts that they will receive in week 12. The paper should be 8-10 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. A complete 7-8-page draft of the final paper will be due by midnight on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Students will submit this draft for peer review to 2-3 of their classmates. On April 27<sup>th</sup> students will discuss one another's papers and offer feedback to one another as peer reviewers. Revised final papers are due May 4<sup>th</sup> by 3:30PM.

## SCHEDULE

Week	Reading Assignments	Activities
<b>1</b> 1/19- 1/24	<b>Theme: Syllabus and Introduction</b> <b>Reading:</b> Syllabus	<b>Class 1/19</b> Discussion Leader Sign-up
<b>2</b> 1/25- 1/31	<b>Theme: Sex Work (Part 1)</b> <i>Policing Pleasure</i> (Chapters 1-4 & 7) 71 pages	<b>Class 1/26</b>
<b>3</b> 2/1- 2/7	<b>Theme: Sex Work (Part 2)</b> <i>Policing Pleasure</i> (Chapters 9, 10, 11, 13 & 14) 73 pages	<b>Class 2/2</b>
<b>4</b> 2/8- 2/14	<b>Theme: Drugs, Vagrancy and Petty Theft (Part 1)</b> <i>Righteous Dopefiend</i> (Intro & Chapters 3 & 5) 98 pages	<b>Class 2/9</b>
<b>5</b> 2/15- 2/21	<b>Theme: Drugs, Vagrancy and Petty Theft (Part 2)</b> <i>Righteous Dopefiend</i> (Chapters 8, 9, & Conclusion) 80 pages	<b>Class 2/16</b>
<b>6</b> 2/22- 2/28	<b>Theme: Smuggling and the Drug Trade (Part 1)</b> <i>When I Wear my Alligator Boots</i> (Intro – Chapter 2) 85 pages	<b>Class 2/23</b>
<b>7</b> 3/1- 3/7	<b>Theme: Smuggling and the Drug Trade (Part 2)</b> <i>When I Wear my Alligator Boots</i> (Chapters 3 - conclusion) 107 pages	<b>Class 3/2</b>
<b>8</b> 3/8- 3/14	<b>Theme: Commodity Smuggling and Midterm Exam</b> <i>Global Outlaws</i> (Chapters 11-16) 62 pages <b><u>In-Class Midterm Exam</u></b>	<b>Class 3/9</b> In-Class Midterm Exam
<b>9</b> 3/15- 3/21	<b>Theme: Undocumented Im/migration (Part 1)</b> <i>Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies</i> (Chapters 2-4) 81 pages	<b>Class 3/16</b>
<b>10</b> 3/22- 3/28	<b>Theme: Undocumented Im/migration (Part 2)</b> <i>Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies</i> (Chapter 5-7) 88 pages	<b>Class 3/23</b>
<b>11</b> 3/29- 4/4	<b>Theme: Law Enforcement, Discrimination and Torture</b> <i>Enforcing Order</i> (Chapters 2 & 5) 56 pages <i>The Torture Letters</i> (Chapter 4) 35 pages	<b>Class 3/30</b>
<b>12</b> 4/5- 4/11	<b>Theme: Prison and Probation (Part 1)</b> <i>Prison Worlds</i> (Intro. & Chapters 1, 2 & 4) 79 pages	<b>Class 4/6</b>
<b>13</b> 4/12- 4/18	<b>Theme: Prison and Probation (Part 2)</b> <i>Outlaw Women</i> (Chapters 1 & 4) 83 pages	<b>Class 4/13</b>

<b>14</b> 4/19- 4/25	<b>Theme: Corruption and Bribery</b> <i>Anxious Wealth</i> (Chapters 2-3) 77 pages <b><u>Submit Final Paper Draft Due by 4/25 @ Midnight</u></b>	<b>Class 4/20</b> Final Paper Draft Due 4/25
<b>15</b> 4/26- 5/2	<b>Peer Review and Reflection</b> Read Peer Paper Drafts and prepare comments and questions for class. Will discuss in class. <b><u>Submit Peer Reviews by 4/27 @ Midnight</u></b>	<b>Class 4/27</b> Peer-Review Ready for in-class discussion
<b>16</b> 5/3- 5/9	<b>Finals Week</b> <b><u>Submit Revised Final Paper Due by 5/4 @ 3:30PM</u></b>	<b>Final Paper 5/4</b> Due 3:30PM