

COURSE OUTLINE

The State University at Albany
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs
And Policy
RPOS-204- 0008 (8832)
Problems in Political Science
The Black Lives Matter Movement
Spring 2019
Monday 4:15 p.m. – 7:05 p.m.
FA 114

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The Black Lives Matter Movement

The purpose of this course is to trace and investigate the development of the Black Lives Matter movement. The course will explore the historical, political, social, and economic forces that gave rise to the movement. Specifically, the course will focus on racial disparities in law enforcement and institutional racism. Case studies will center on those Black individuals killed by law enforcement officials and the response of the justice system. The course will also compare and contrast the Black Lives Matter movement with the Civil Rights movement from 1954-1968. The effective use of social media and technology as tools to promote racial justice will also be analyzed.

Primary Objectives

1. Study, analyze and critique the role of the law in the Black community.
2. Explore the role of race and the law.
3. Understand methods of legal analysis and reasoning including critical race theory.
4. Understanding why diversity matters.
5. Understanding, analyzing and discussing current events including the impact of America's first Black president.
6. The course will also explore the political, economic, religious, social, intellectual and artistic changes which led to the evolution of the Black Lives Matter movement.
7. The philosophical underpinnings of the theory of nonviolent direct mass action will be analyzed.
8. The strategies of proponents of racial justice to transform Jim Crow societies into integrated societies will be studied.

9. Major historical figures including Martin Luther King Jr., Bayard Rustin, Lyndon Baines Johnson, Malcolm X, Earl Warren, and Thurgood Marshall will be analyzed.
10. The students will also learn of the growth of black empowerment; from rural Mississippi to Watts and Oakland, California.

Class Requirements

1. Examinations: One (1) midterm exam counts as 30% of the student's final grade and one final examination counts as 30% of the student's final grade.
2. Class attendance and participation: failure to attend class, defined as more than six (6) absences, will result in the failure of this course. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Students will debate selected topics during the semester. 20% of the student grade will be based upon class participation which includes their debate performance.
3. Group Presentation: One (1) group presentation on an approved topic relating to the Black Lives Matter movement. The presentation must be at least 15 minutes. This presentation will constitute 20% of the student's final grade.

Undergraduate Academic Regulations:

Students are expected to comply with all rules and regulations for student conduct as described in the University's Undergraduate Bulletin, which can be found at:
http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html.

Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will at a minimum fail the specific assignment and, according to University guidelines, could fail the course. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another person's wording without indicating the source using quotation marks and the appropriate citation. Paraphrased or borrowed ideas are to be identified with the appropriate citation.

Accommodations

“Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Director of Disabled Student Services (Campus Center 137, 442-5490). The office will provide the course instructor with verification of your disability, and will recommend appropriate accommodations.” For the University's policy, see: <http://www.albany.edu/disability/docs/RAP.pdf>. If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this class please inform the instructor as soon as possible.

Required Readings

Alexander, Michele. The New Jim Crow. New York: The New Press, 2012

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. Racism without Racists. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc. 2014

Glaude, Jr., Eddie S. Democracy in Black. New York: Crown Publishers, 2016

Useful Web Sites

Supremecourt.gov

www.census.gov/pubinfo

Cornell Law School

Oxford Press

NY Times

WEEKLY OUTLINE

Week 1 January 28, 2019

Introduction and Overview: Race, Law, and Society

A Short History of the Black Lives Matter Movement

Week 2 February 4, 2019

The Black Lives Matter Platform

The American Legal System

Constitutional Dilemma

Dred Scott v. Sandford

Reading: Democracy in Black, Chapter 1-2

Week 3 February 11, 2019

NO CLASS (ROSH HASHANAH)

The History of Blacks in America

Reading: Glaude Chapter 3; Bonilla-Silva, Chapter 1

Constitutional Amendments 13, 14, and 15

Debate topic selected
Social Media

Week 4 February 18, 2019

The Civil Rights Movement

Bonilla-Silva, Chapter 2
Glaude, Chapter 4

U.S. Justice Department Reports

Ferguson

Baltimore

Week 5 February 25, 2019

Civil Rights Act 1964

Bonilla-Silva, Chapter 3
Glaude, Chapter 5

Week 6 March 4, 2019

Voting Rights Act 1965

The Use of Social Media
The American Labor Movement
Reading: Bonilla-Silva, Chapter 4
Glaude, Chapter 4

Week 7 March 11, 2019

Debates

Week 8 Spring Break, March 16-22, 2019

Week 9 March 25, 2019
MIDTERM EXAM

Week 10 April 1, 2019

Leaders of the BLM Movement
Black Liberation Movement
The Use of Social Media
Black Nationalism

Week 11 April 8, 2019

The Use of Social Media

Principles of the Movement
The American Labor Movement
Reading: Bonilla-Silva, Chapter 5

Week 12 April 15, 2019

The Women's Rights Movement

Presentations

Reading: Bonilla-Silva, Chapter 6

Glaude, Chapter 5

Week 13 April 22, 2019

Presentations

The Criminal Justice System

Assigned Reading: Alexander, Chapters 1-3;

Glaude, Chapter 6

Week 14 April 29, 2019

The LGBT Movement

The Strange Career of Jim Crow revisited

Solutions to current issues in the Black community
Reading: Bonilla-Silva, Chapter 7; Chapter 8

Glaude, Chapter 7

Week 15 May 6, 2019

Reforms

Bail/ Legal Representation

Reading: Bonilla-Silva, Chapter 9; Chapter 10

Last day of class is May 6, 2019

FINAL EXAM

May 13, 2019, Monday at 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

GENERAL POLICIES

Readings should be done before the class for which they are assigned.

Students should attend all classes. Attendance will reflect on your final grade. Students who leave the classroom before the period is over will be considered absent for that day.

The classroom is an open learning environment; therefore, all students' ideas, suggestions, comments, questions, and viewpoints must be respected.

Students must only talk during discussions or when asking or answering questions.

All cell phones and other electronic devices must be off and out of sight in the classroom unless the student has been granted permission by the instructor.

The policy for making up missed exams and/or penalties for late submission of assignments is as follows: A student who misses an exam will be required to submit medical documentation or proof of the death of a family member.

The university's guidelines for giving incompletes (grades of I) are at the following links : <https://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/grading.php>https://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/requirements_degree.htm#graduate_grades