



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

INEQUALITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM - 61108

Last update 03-09-2019

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Criminology

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Josh Guetzkow

Coordinator Email: joshua.guetzkow@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30-11:30

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Joshua Guetzkow

Course/Module description:

This course will provide an overview of inequality in the criminal justice system. The course is designed to guide students through a critical review of empirical research and theorizing about inequality at each stage of the criminal justice system: starting from the unequal social conditions that breed crime, the creation of laws that criminalize the harms caused by dominated social groups, and moving on to inequality in arrests and the enforcement of laws, case processing and convictions, sentencing, imprisonment and post-prison circumstances.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Students should be able to summarize various aspects of inequality in the criminal justice and compare the role of different causal mechanism. They should be able to offer illustrative examples of these aspects and mechanisms. They should also be able to define the following concepts and explain their relevance for inequality in the criminal justice system: moral panics, criminalization, disparity, institutional discrimination, procedural fairness, implicit bias, social identity, and ethnic threat.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

INEQUALITY AS AN EMPIRICAL PROBLEM; INJUSTICE AND INSTITUTIONAL DISCRIMINATION

CRIMINALIZATION: CLASS, ETHNICITY AND RACE

LAW ENFORCEMENT & ARRESTS COURT PROCESSING & SENTENCING

MECHANISMS OF INEQUALITY

INEQUALITY IN IMPRISONMENT

GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Required Reading:

Whitewashing Race, chapter 4. Pages 135-153.

Chambliss, W. 1964. "Sociological Analysis of the Law of Vagrancy."

Reiman, J. 2007. The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice. Chapter 2: Read pages 60-67 and 70-80. Skim one of the examples he gives on pages 80-100)

King County Bar Association. 2005. "Drugs and the Drug Laws: Historical and Cultural Contexts." 1-13.

Pope, Carl and Howard Snyder. 2003. "Race as a Factor in Juvenile Arrests." OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin, April.

Chambliss, W. 1994. "Policing the Ghetto Underclass: The Politics of Law and Law Enforcement. Social Problems 41(2): 177-94.

Gazal-Ayal et al. 2008. "Arabs and Jews in Initial Pretrial Detention Hearings." Mishpatim -The Hebrew University Law Journal, 38(3): 629-652.

Rattner, A. and G. Fischman. "Sentencing Outcomes in a Multinational Society: When Judges, Offenders and Victims Can Be Either Arabs or Jews." European Journal of Criminology 3(1): 69-84.

Bridges, George and Sara Steen. 1998. "Racial Disparities in Official Assessments of Juvenile Offenders: Attributional Stereotypes as Mediating Mechanisms of Juvenile Offenders." American Sociological Review, 63(4): 554-571.

Hunter et al. 1991. "Intergroup Violence and Intergroup Attributions." British Journal of Social Psychology, 30:261-66.

Western, B. 2006. Punishment & Inequality in America. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. Selections Chapter 2 and Pages 179-88 of Chapter 7.

Korn, A. 2003. "Rates of Incarceration and Main Trends in Israeli Prisons." Criminology and Criminal Justice 3(1): 29-55.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 100 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

You are required to attend each meeting, to read the assignments thoroughly and in advance, and to actively engage in class discussions. Grades will be based on a final take-home exam. Final Grade: The final grade will be based on a final work. Changes may be made to reading assignments. Always check Moodle for updates before you begin reading. It is your responsibility to make sure you are aware of any changes.