



### Is Justice Blind?

This course is designed to introduce students to the social scientific literature that deals with the question of inequalities and justice. Not designed to be a course that simply examines minority classification as an independent variable that causes variation in procedural justice, this semester we will examine the process by which one is classed as “minority” and the ways that this “spoiled identity” affects their understanding of, and dealings with, systems of justice.

### Contact Information:

Alan D. Brown-Hart, PhD  
25 University Private  
Thompson Hall, Room 202B  
613-562-5800 x 2572  
613-562-5304 (fax)  
613-234-2141 (home)  
[alan.brown-hart@uottawa.ca](mailto:alan.brown-hart@uottawa.ca)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:15-11:30 and Fridays 8:00-9:45 (other times, by appointment)

### Goals and Objectives

The goal of this course is to give students a firm grounding in the key concepts and perspectives concerning inequalities as they relate to issues of criminal activity, victimization and regulation. Key to this course will be critical evaluations of *how* and *why* individuals are constructed as minority “others”. Above all, a social justice and human rights perspective will be adopted as a way to make sense of crime and social inequalities--in all forms.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Trace the development of theories of inequality and locate these within particular cultural and historical contexts;
- Describe the challenges that the concept “minority” creates in conducting and disseminating social research on crime, justice and inequality;
- Compare and contrast the various epistemological and methodological approaches to studying crime and inequality;
- List the ways that the “web of difference” or multiple inequalities of race, class, gender and sexuality shape our understanding of, and relationship to, justice;
- Describe and discuss the policy debates surrounding crime, justice and social inequality.

### Format

The format for this course will include, but is not limited to: formal and informal lectures, course discussions, peer led discussions, films, guest speakers and reflexive practice (journaling, blogging etc...)

## General Guidelines

My guidelines for this course are very clear: Act like adults and serious scholars and you will be treated the same way.

### I expect:

- For you to come to class prepared and on time
- Students to be active co-creators of their university experience
- That students will be respectful and courteous of the opinions and comments of others
- For you to do your very best and to achieve your full potential

### I don't expect:

- Cell phones to go off in class
- Students to be chronically or habitually late and unprepared
- Personal attacks, insults or ridicule
- Shoddy or sub-par work
- Excuses instead of results
- Whining

### Readings:

A reading packet is **required** for this course and has been prepared for you and is available for purchase at Enviro Copies at 404 Dalhousie Street (613-241-2679). In addition, I will put one (1) copy of each reading on reserve at the Morisset Library. NB: Not having a reading packet is not an acceptable excuse for not having your work completed.

### Evaluation:

Your evaluation for this course will include the following:

Item		Percentage of Final Grade
Weekly Participation:		10%
Critical Evaluations (Reaction Papers)	3@ 10%	30%
Examinations (take home format)	2@15%	30%
Final Examination (take home format)		30%
		<b>Total</b> 100%

**Weekly participation** includes attendance, participation in discussion and/or impromptu writing assignments in class. To facilitate discussion, I have done two things. First, your syllabus contains very short readings (in bold on the calendar on this syllabus) that I would like you to read and we will discuss them the first few minutes of each Friday class. Second, I will make available through WebCT reading questions for each week. These questions are not intended to be answered like homework, but are meant to be a guide to help you in your reading and alert you to what I feel are key points of the readings. You are, of course, invited to add your own questions to the mix...the list should not be seen as the least bit exhaustive.

**Critical Evaluations/Reaction Papers** are **short** (not to exceed 1,000 words) papers written on a topic of my choice. These will be spread out throughout the term.

**Examinations** (mid-terms and final) are all take home format. The goal of them is synthesis and understanding, not memorization and regurgitation. You will have an opportunity to suggest questions for the examinations. In each case, you will have at least 1 full week to complete the requirements for the examination.

**Policy regarding late work:** Very simple. There will be no late work. If you cannot get the assignment done on time for reasons other than documented illness, death (other than your own), or loss of limb, then you should consider dropping this course.

**Grading:**

**A to A+** Exceptional. Work is accurate, relevant, clear in both content and presentation. Shows creativity and insight.

**B+ to A-** Good. Solid work that shows understanding. Well researched, written and presented.

**B- to B** Acceptable. Clear grasp of content, however, more attention could have been given to details. Some minor problems in mechanics, organization, argument.

**C** Weak. Significant weakness in one or more of the following: research, writing, and/or organizational skills. Logic of argument is unclear. Statements are false, misleading and/or uncorroborated.

**D** Poor.

**F** Unacceptable

**Accommodation:**

I am pleased to support the University policy concerning students with disabilities. Please refer to the services offered by visiting:

<http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/en/access/> (or <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/fr/access/>)

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

Students who are caught committing plagiarism will be dealt with to the fullest extent of allowable University policy. For guidelines about plagiarism, please see:  
<http://www.socialsciences.uottawa.ca/images/pdf/plagiarism.pdf>

**Syllabus Change Policy**

This syllabus is provided as a guide. It is subject to change with appropriate notice.

**Tentative Course Outline.** Please refer to the University of Ottawa Website for more information regarding important administrative dates and deadlines. ([www.uottawa.ca](http://www.uottawa.ca))

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	To Do	Pps
0	September 9	Introduction	n/a		
1	September 13	Theoretical Foundations	Kallen 1-73		
	September 16	Theoretical Foundations II	Finish Kallen from Tuesday “Everybody is a racist; it’s part of human nature”.		80
2	September 20	The Canadian Context	Dreidger and Halli 1-18 Wargon 20-32 Dreidger and Halli 55-76		
	September 23	The Canadian Context II	Dhruvarajan 166-175 Peake and Ray 180-186 “I’m not a racist, and nobody I know is either”.	Reaction Paper #1 Due Today	70
3	September 27	Methods and Epistemology	Stanley and Wise 20-60 Hammers and Brown 85-101		
	September 30	Methods and Epistemology II	Hill Collins 221-239 Pettway xi-xvii “Immigrants are threatening our way of life”.	Question Suggestions for Exam 1 Due Today	84

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	To Do	Pps
4	October 4	"Good" Science?	Wortley 261-274 Melchers 347-366 Wortley and Tanner 367-389 Gold 391-399	Distribution of Exam 1 today	
	October 7	Crime and Injustice	<b>Film:</b> "Home Feeling: Struggle for a Community" For information, visit: <a href="http://www.nfb.ca">http://www.nfb.ca</a> <b>"Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists".</b>		68
5	October 11	Crime and Injustice II	Chan and Mirchandani 9-22 Junger-Tas 5-29	Exam 1 Due Today	
	October 14		Lynch 3-28 DeKeseredy 49-72 <b>"In America, justice is blind"</b>		91
6	October 18		Georges-Abeyie ix-xii Milovanovic and Russell xiv-xxiii Russell 3-13 Hagan 129-146 <b>"Support your local police"</b>		44
	October 21	<b>NO CLASSES</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b>	

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	To Do	Pps
7	October 25	Crime Causation	Richie pps 101-158		
	October 28	Crime Causation	Finish Richie from Tuesday Torry 309-325 “Just say no to drugs”	Reaction Paper #2 Due Today	91
8	November 1	Moral Regulation	Kinsman 108-132 (R) Hunt 192-220 (R) Dangerous Bedfellows 13-21; 23-44		
	November 4	Moral Regulation	Dangerous Bedfellows 13-71; 187-262; 395-400 Gay Bathhouse 1-11 Promiscuous Affections 1-16 Égale: The Law... 1-13 Bigotry... 1-2 Viewpoint 1-2 FFWD 1-2 “Homosexuality is unnatural”	Suggestions for Exam 2 Due Today	133
9	November 8		Panel		
	November 11	Hate Crimes	Flood 34-64; 105-129 “Lock ‘em up and throw away the key”	Examination #2 Distributed Today	

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	To Do	Pps
10	November 15	Hate Crimes	Finish Flood from Friday		
	November 18	Hate Crimes	Film "The Laramie Project" "Feminism is no longer relevant"	Examination #2 Due Today	158 2 weeks
11	November 22	Policing Diversity	Moran and Sharpe 269-285 Miller, Forest and Jurik 355-385 Weitzer and Tuch 305-325		
	November 25	Policing Diversity	Finish readings from Tuesday "The welfare state rewards laziness"		71
12	November 29	Policy	Barak 237-263 Halpern and Weinstein 561-583		
	December 2	Discussion	Arrigo 251-272 Richey Mann and Zatz 223-234 "Indians Shouldn't have any special rights"	Reaction Paper #3 Due Today Final Examination Distributed Today	

**FINAL EXAM IS DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16**

## Reading List

### Week 1

Kallen, Evelyn. (2004). "Introduction: A Human Rights Approach" in Social Inequality and Social Injustice: A Human Rights Approach. pps 1-73. London: Palgrave.

Sorenson, John S. (2003). "Everybody is racist: It is part of human nature. Fatalistic belief condoning the perpetuation of racial oppression" in Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science. Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorenson (eds). pps 37-45. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

### Week 2

Dreidger, Leo and Shiva S. Halli (2000). "The Race Challenge 2000" in Race and Racism: Canada's Challenge. pps 1-18. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Wargon, Sylvia T. (2000). "Historical and Political Reflections on Race" in Race and Racism: Canada's Challenge. Dreidger, Leo and Shiva S. Halli (eds). pps 20-32. Montreal : McGill-Queen's University Press.

Dreidger, Leo and Shiva S. Halli (2000). "Racial Integration: Theoretical Options" in Race and Racism: Canada's Challenge. pps 55-76. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Dhruvarajan, Vanja (2000). "People of Colour and National Identity in Canada". Journal of Canadian Studies 35 (2): 166-175.

Peake, Linda and Brian Ray (2001). "Racializing the Canadian Landscape: Whiteness, Uneven Geographies and Social Justice". The Canadian Geographer 45(1): 180-186.

Sorenson, John S. (2003). "I'm not racist, and nobody I know is either. A worthy statement which invites discussions of 'colour-blindness'" in Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science. Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorenson (eds). pps 47-52. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

### Week 3

Stanley, Liz and Sue Wise (1990). "Method, Methodology and Epistemology in Feminist Research Processes" in Stanley, Liz (ed). Feminist Praxis: Research, Theory and Epistemology in Feminist Sociology. pps 20-60. New York: Routledge.

Hammers, Corie and Alan D Brown III (2004). "Towards a Feminist-Queer Alliance: A Paradigmatic Shift in the Research Process". Social Epistemology 18(1): 85-101.

Hill Collins, Patricia (1991). "Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment" in Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment. pps 221-238. New York: Routledge.

Pettiway, Leon (1996). "Introduction: Voices from the Shadows" in Honey, Honey, Miss Thang: Being Black, Gay and on the Street. pps xi-xvii. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Sorenson, John S. (2003). "Immigrants are threatening our way of life. Centuries-old fear expressed about every new wave of immigration, even by the last wave of immigration" in

**Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science.** Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorenson (eds). pps 47-52. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

*Week 4*

Wortly, Scot (1999). "A Northern Taboo: Research on Race, Crime and Criminal Justice in Canada." Canadian Journal of Criminology 41(2): 261-274.

Melchers, Ron (2003). "Do Toronto Police Engage in Racial Profiling?" Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice 45(3): 347-366.

Wortley, Scot and Julian Tanner (2003). "Data, Denials, and Confusion: The Racial Profiling Debate in Toronto." Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice 45(3): 367-389.

Gold, Alan D. (2003). "Media Hype, Racial Profiling, and Good Science." Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice 45(3): 391-399.

**John S. Sorenson (2003).** "Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists: A mind-numbingly ridiculous Hobson's choice offered up by U.S. President G.W. Bush, September 20, 2001" **Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science.** Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorenson (eds). pps 67-73. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press

*Week 5*

Chan, Wendy and Kiran Mirchandani (2002). "From Race and Crime to Racialization and Criminalization" in Kiran Mirchandani and Wendy Chan (eds). Crimes of Colour: Racialization and the Criminal Justice System in Canada pps 9-22. Toronto: Broadview Press.

Junger-Tas, Josine (2001). "Ethnic Minorities, Social Integration and Crime". European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research. 9: 5-29.

Lynch, Michael J. (1996). "Class, Race, Gender and Criminology: Structured Choices and the Life Course" in Schwartz, Martin D. and Dragan Milovanovic (eds). Race, Gender and Class in Criminology: The Intersection. pps 3-28. New York: Garland.

DeKeseredy, Walter S. (1996). "The Left Realist Perspective on Race, Class and Gender". in Schwartz, Martin D. and Dragan Milovanovic (eds). Race, Gender and Class in Criminology: The Intersection. pps 49-72. New York: Garland.

**Smith, Murray E.G. (2003).** "In America, justice is blind: The myth of 'Equality before the law'" in **Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science.** Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorenson (eds). pps 257-263. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

*Week 6*

Georges-Abeyie, Daniel E. (2001). "Petit-Apartheid in Criminal Justice: 'The More 'Things' Change, the More 'Things' Remain the Same'" in Milovanovic, Dragan and Kathryn K. Russell (eds) Petit Apartheid in Criminal Justice: The Dark Figure of Racism. pps ix-xiii. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Milovanovic, Dragan and Katheryn K. Russell (2001). "Petit Apartheid" in Milovanovic, Dragan and Katheryn K. Russell (eds) Petit Apartheid in Criminal Justice: The Dark Figure of Racism. pps xv-xxiii. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Russell, Katheryn K. (2001). "Toward Developing a Theoretical Paradigm and Typology for Petit Apartheid" in Milovanovic, Dragan and Katheryn K. Russell (eds) Petit Apartheid in Criminal Justice: The Dark Figure of Racism. pps 3-13. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Hagan, John (1985). "Toward a Structural Theory of Crime, Race, and Gender: The Canadian Case." Crime and Delinquency 31(1): 129-146.

Sorenson, John S. (2003). "Support your local police: Popular propaganda of dubious value to protesters of the culture of prejudice" in Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science. Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorenson (eds). pps 251-256. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

#### Week 7

Richie, Beth (1996). "Six paths to crime: 'I was running, dealing, robbing and stealing'; and 'The story of gender entrapment: Considering the context'" in Compelled to Crime: The Gender Entrapment of Battered Black Women pps 101-158. New York: Routledge.

Torry, William I. (2001). "Social Change, Crime, and Culture: The Defense of Provocation." Crime, Law and Social Change 36(3): 209-235.

Blackwell, Judith C. (2003). "Just say 'no' to drugs: Or, why my drugs are ok and yours aren't as propounded by Nancy Reagan, leading lady to former actor and U.S. President Ronald C. c. 1980's" in Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science. Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorenson (eds). pps 241-249. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

#### Week 8

Excerpts from:

Dangerous Bedfellows Collective (eds). (1996). Policing Public Sex: Queer Politics and Future of AIDS Activism. Boston: South End Press.

"Introduction" and "Part I: Public Sex" pps 13-24;

Blotcher, Jay. "Sex Club Owners: The Fuck Suck Stops Here." pps 25-44;

Serlin, David. "The Twilight (Zone) of Commercial Sex." pps 45-52;

Thomas, Kendall. "Going Public: A Conversation with Lidell Jackson and Jocelyn Taylor." pps 53-71;

Bérubé, Alan. "The History of Gay Bathhouses." pps 187-220;

Alexander, Priscilla. "Bathhouses and Brothels: Symbolic Sites in Discourse and Practice." pps 221-249;

Leigh, Carol (a.k.a. Scarlot Harlot). "P.I.M.P. (Prostitutes in Municipal Politics)." pps 250-262;

Ross, Andrew. "Epilogue: Calculating the Risk." pps-395-400.

"Gay Bathhouse: Facts, Info and Encyclopedia Article" [http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/encyclopedia/g/ga/gay\\_bathhouse.htm](http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/encyclopedia/g/ga/gay_bathhouse.htm). Accessed 8/8/2005

"Promiscuous Affections: 1981." <http://www.rebeout.com/bar/1981.htm> Accessed 8/8/2005

"Égale: The Law is 'Linked with the Regulation of Sexual Morality'" <http://opinionatedlesbian.com/opinionatedlesban/articles/514.aspx> Accessed 8/8/2005

Burnett, Richard (2003). "Lest We Forget: Apathetic Gay Community Needs History Lesson." FFWD Weekly, April 10, 2003. <http://www.ffwdweekly.com/Issues/2003/0410/view2.htm> Accessed 8/8/2005

Steele, Amy (2003). "Charges Dropped in Gay Bathhouse Raid." FFWD Weekly February 3, 2005. <http://www.ffwdweekly.com/Issues/2005/0203/news1.htm> Accessed 8/8/2005

**Blackwell, Judith C. (2003). "Homosexuality is unnatural: Or, why my orgasm is better than yours" in Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science. Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorerenson (eds). pps 207-213. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.**

*Recommended for Week 8*

Kinsman, Gary (2004). "The Canadian Cold War on Queers: Sexual Regulation and Resistance." in Cavell, Richard (ed). Love, Hate, and Fear in Canada's Cold War. pps 108-132. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Hunt, Alan (1999). "Retraditionalizing Moral Regulation: Making Sense of Contemporary Moral Politics." in Governing Morals: A Social History of Moral Regulation. pps 192-220. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 9

Excerpts from:

Janoff, Douglas Victor (2005). Pink Blood: Homophobic Violence in Canada. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

"Theories of Homophobia: Why do They Want to Hurt Us." pps 35-64;

"Law, Homophobia and Violence: Legislating Against Hate." pps 105-129;

"Homophobia, Violence, and Policing in Canada." pps 158-198;

"Urban Cowboys and Rural Rednecks: Community Resistance to Homophobic Violence." pps 199-243;

"Conclusion." pps 244-253.

**Blackwell, Judith C. (2003). "Lock 'em up and throw away the key! Expensive, inefficient, inhumane, and remarkably simple-minded solution to the modern 'crime problem'" in Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science. Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorerenson (eds). pps 233-239. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.**

Week 10*Ibid*

Sorenson, John C. (2003). "Feminism is no longer relevant: Delusional statement by people who think that women 'Have it all'" in Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science. Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorenson (eds). pps 187-193. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

Week 11

Moran, Leslie J. and Andrew N. Sharpe (2002). "Policing the Transgender/Violence Relation." Current Issues in Criminal Justice 269-285.

Miller, Susan L., Forest, Kay B., and Nancy C. Jurik (2003). "Diversity in Blue: Lesbian and Gay Police Officers in a Masculine Occupation." Men & Masculinities 5(4): 355-385.

Weitzer, Ronald and Steven A. Tuch (2004). "Race and Perceptions of Police Misconduct." Social Problems 51(3): 305-325.

Blackwell, Judith C. (2003). "The welfare state rewards laziness: the poor are different from the 'rest of us' prejudice" in Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science. Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorenson (eds). pps 107-112. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

Week 12

Barak, Gregg (2001). "Crime, Justice and Policy." in Class, Race, Gender, and Crime: Social Realities of Justice in America. pps 237-262. Los Angeles: Roxbury.

Halpern, Jodi and Harvey M Weinstein (2004). "Rehumanizing the Other: Empathy and Reconciliation." Human Rights Quarterly 26 (2004): 561-583

Arrigo, Bruce A. (1999). "Critical Social Justice: An Integration" in Social Justice/Criminal Justice: The Maturation of Critical Theory in Law, Crime and Deviance. pps 251-272. Scarborough, ON: Wadsworth.

Richey Mann, Coramae and Marjorie S. Zatz (2002). "A Fragile Future: Pitfalls and Possibilities" in Images of Color/Images of Crime Richey Mann, Coramae and Marjorie S. Zatz (eds.) pps 223-234. Los Angeles: Roxbury.

Sorenson, John C. (2003). "Indians shouldn't have any special rights: Belief that aboriginal people are 'just another minority group'" in Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science. Blackwell, Judith C., Smith, Murray E.G., and John S. Sorenson (eds). pps 121-126. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.