JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CUNY
445 W. 59th St., New York NY 10019

ANTHROPOLOGY 230-01-08

CULTURE AND CRIME

Professor: Glenn Alcalay
Semester: Fall 2024
Course Code: ANT 230
Course Section: 01 & 08
Classroom: TBA
Email: galcalay@jjay.cuny.edu
Course Pre-requisites: ENG 101 *and* any social science course

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Course Description: This course examines crime, criminality and responses to crime from an anthropological and cross-cultural perspective. Students will analyze the concept of crime as a cultural construct and as a social phenomenon and consider its causes, factors and complexities in and cross-cultural research on a variety of world cultures and how power, economics identity, gender, religion, and other meaning systems are integrated with these transgressions on local, national and global scales. Students will study cases critically and learn qualitative anthropological methods such as interviews and observation to consider and compare examples of and attitudes toward crime in their own society. 3 hours, 3 credits.

Learning and Knowledge Objectives:

World Cultures and Global Issue Objectives: Students will learn how to

- view the idea of **crime** from a **cross-cultural** and **relativistic** perspective;
- identify and apply fundamental concepts and methods of **anthropology** and its focus on **world cultures** and **global issues** in relation to **crime** and **justice;**
- analyze the concepts of **culture** and **cultural diversity** in a global context and the **history** of several **non-U.S. societies,** and how crime and justice are dealt with;
- discuss and analyze the role that different forms of **differentiation** and **intersectionality** (including race, ethnicity, class, gender, language, religion and socioeconomic status) play in cultures and crime around the world.

Basic Core Objectives: Students will (1) gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources (including knowledge from family members about kinship, public behaviors and customs, and oral narratives in society) and points of view (individuals and groups form different cultures and in other parts of the world); (2) evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically in class discussion and individual assignments; (3) produce well-reasoned written arguments using evidence to support conclusions in short writing assignments and exam essays.

Additional Program Learning Objectives: Students will learn the following **social science concepts**: Transgression, Inequality, Structural Violence, Cultural Relativism, Human Subjects Research. Students will learn the following **technical academic and**

Critical thinking skills: Comparative Analysis, Summarizing Case Studies, Ethnographic Observation, Writing Culture. Students will gain i**nformation literacy** competence using web-based search tools including anthropological databases, and in searching and organizing digital academic and media sources.

To meet these objectives, the course will include readings, and writing assignments, as well as videos and class discussions.

Required Readings

(1) **Textbook:** Crime, Culture & Violence: *Understanding how masculinity & identity shapes offending* by Katie Seidler. Australian Academic Press. 2010.
ISBN# 978-1-9215-1356-5

(2) **Additional materials** – Numerous videos and articles will be linked on our Blackboard site

The Writing Center: The Writing Center, located in room 2450 North Hall, is a service that provides free tutoring to students of John Jay. The Center has a staff of trained tutors who work with students to help them become more effective writers, from planning and organizing a paper, to writing and then proofreading it. The Writing Center is a valuable resource for any student of writing, and I encourage you to use it.

Assessment (Grading). Assessment and Grades will be discussed in more detail in the course. Below is a description of the assignments and evaluation of students for the class.

Class Discussions [weekly]	20%
Response Papers (4)	30%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	**100%**

Final letter grades will be determined according to the John Jay College grade percentage chart.

1) **Class Discussions**. You will be expected to keep up with the assigned weekly reading assignments, and to actively participate in our robust class discussions. You will be randomly called on in class to critique that week's assigned reading. **20% of final grade**;

2) **Response Papers**. There will four writing assignments for this course. These four Response Paper assignments comprise **30% of your final grade.** We will discuss the details when the first R.P. is assigned;

3) **Mid-Term Exam**. You will be tested on course lectures, videos, and readings. **The *Mid-Term Exam* comprises 25% of your grade;**

4) **Final Exam**. Although the final is non-cumulative, i.e. you will only be tested on material that we cover after the Mid-Term, you should review basic concepts from the first half of the class. **The *Final Exam* comprises 25% of your grade.**

Class Schedule:

Week 1: Introductions and definition of new terms

Week 2: Crime & Context: The problem of definition and research

Week 3: Review of what we know about crime

Week 4: Definition of Culture: Violence in cross-cultural context

Week 5: Meeting the Offenders

Week 6: *Mid-Term Exam*

Week 7: Identity & Violence

Week 8: Culture & Violence

Week 9: Offenders' Alibis

Week 10: Gender and intimate **violence**

Week 11: Religious violence

Week 12: Political violence

Week 13: Violence in **American** society

Week 14: Course wrap up: **The Way Forward**

Week 15: *Final Exam*