Master Syllabus
CJS 400
Contemporary Topics in Justice
Cluster Requirement: 5A

This University Studies Master Syllabus serves as a guide and standard for all instructors teaching an approved course in the University Studies program. Individual instructors have full academic freedom in teaching their courses, but as a condition of course approval, agree to focus on the outcomes listed below, to cover the identified material, to use these or comparable assignments as part of the course work, and to make available the agreed-upon artifacts for assessment of learning outcomes.

Course Overview:

CJS 400 provides the opportunity for advanced investigation of a topic related to Crime and Justice Studies. For the capstone project in the seminar, students will complete a project of independent and original research and analysis, within parameters established by the instructor. Students will communicate their findings both orally and in writing.

Learning Outcomes:

Course-Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the seminar, students will be able to:
1. understand concepts, theories and empirical findings in the topic area as it relates to Crime and Justice Studies;
2. utilize basic research skills including research design, data analysis and interpretation;
3. access, understand and synthesize professional and popular writing;
4. formulate, articulate, and analyze arguments;
5. assess the relevance and weight of evidence;
6. write clearly and persuasively; and
7. organize their ideas in a focused paper and presentation.

University Studies Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the capstone study, students will be able to:
1. Synthesize the knowledge and skills gained within major courses, independently complete a research-based project or creative work and integrate the results of both in an open-ended project or experience (projects within the major are encouraged).
2. Integrate knowledge and principles from the field of study with those of the broader University Studies curriculum.
3. Demonstrate advanced information literacy skills by selecting, evaluating, integrating and documenting information gathered from multiple sources into discipline-specific writing.
4. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, the results of the project or experience.
Examples of Texts and/or Assigned Readings:

Course readings will vary by topic and instructor. Readings primarily will be original research from scholarly books or peer-reviewed journals. These may be supplemented with writings for popular audiences and/or textbooks.

Examples of Learning Activities and Assignments:

All sections of this course, regardless of topic and instructor, shall include the following assignments:

1. At least one research-based paper of no less than 10 pages that demonstrates independent, original integration and analysis. Students will be required to locate original social science research and synthesize this literature as part of this assignment.

2. Each student will have flexibility to select a specific question within the parameters set by the instructor. Each student will be required, in a written topic proposal, to explain how the choice of topic was shaped by earlier coursework both inside and outside of the major. The topic proposal will thus provide an assessable artifact for University Studies outcome 4.B.2.

3. At least one oral presentation of no less than 10 minutes. The presentation may involve analysis of the literature explored in the class, the student’s research question and research design, and/or the results of the student’s individual project.

These three assignments constitute a minimum common denominator for the purposes of assessment across sections and do not by any means exclude additional assignments.
Sample Course Outline:

CJS 400-03, Crime, Resistance and Song  Syllabus: Spring, 2012

Week 1: Thursday, September 6 - Introduction to Crime, Resistance and Song

- Syllabus Review

Songs:
- Welfare Poets – Subliminal
- Bob Marley – Redemption Song
- The Coup – Underdog (video)

WEEK 2: Thursday, September 13 - Fela Kuti’s Afrobeat

Readings:
- Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 2

Césaire, Aimé (1955) Discourse on Colonialism.
- Start at “A Civilization that proves incapable…” and end at “The idea, an annoying fly”


Songs:
- Vusi Mahlasela – Red Song
- Fela Kuti – Beast of No Nation
- Fela Kuti – Coffin for Head of State

WEEK 3: Thursday, September 13 - Reggae Music Fighting Racist Poverty in the Caribbean

Readings:
- Chapter 3 and Chapter 4


Songs:
- Peter Tosh – Equal Rights
- Bob Marley – War
- Judy Mowatt – Black Woman
- The Coup – Kill my Landlord

WEEK 4: Thursday, September 20 - From Slave Spirituals to Hip Hop

Readings:


Songs:
- Nina Simone – Mississippi god damn!
- Dead Prez – Police State
- Dead Prez – Suffering and Smiling (originally recorded by Fela)
- No More Prisons – Hurricane G.
- Everything They Owe – Tupac
- Lauryn Hill – Mystery of Iniquity (Spoken Word/Hip Hop)

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**WEEK 5: Thursday, September 27 – The Scramble for Africa**

Readings:


Songs:
- Last Poets – Un-Holy Alliance
- Peter Tosh - Here Comes the Judge

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**WEEK 6: Thursday, October 4 - Black Musicianship & Resistance-Inspired Education**

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION handed out at the end of class**

Readings:
Woodson, Carter (1933) “How we drifted away from the truth” in The Mis-education of the Negro (17 – 25).


- Chapter 5 and Chapter 6

Songs:
- Nina Simone - To be Young, Gifted and Black
- Peter Tosh – You Can’t Blame the Youths
- Dead Prez – They Schools
- Fela – Teacher Don’t Teach Me No Nonsense
- Welfare Poets – The Media
- Sweet Honey in the Rock – Your Children

WEEK 7: Thursday, October 11 – Midterm Examination Due

MIDTERM EXAMINATION DUE @ the beginning of class. You must submit a hard copy.

**Research topics for your final paper must be confirmed with me before class starts on October 25.

Documentary:
- Merchants of Cool

WEEK 8: Thursday, October 25 - Indigenous Resistance to Colonialism in the United States

Readings:
Huhndorf, S. (2001) “Introduction” and “Chapter One: Imagining America – Race, Nation, and Imperialism at the Turn of the Century”

- Introduction, Race Words and Race Stories, Facing the Truth: Past, Present, and Future

Songs:
- Ulali – All My Relations
- Ulali – Museum Cases
- Fela Kuti – Yellow Fever

WEEK 9: Thursday, November 1 - The Masculine Character of Racism

Readings:


Songs:
- Antibalas – Sister
- Ulali – Museum Cases
WEEK 10: Thursday, November 8 - *Music and Resistance during South African Apartheid*

**Readings:**

- The Emotions of White Supremacy: Fear, Guilt, and Anger, Playing the Fool, Against Diversity, For Politics

**Documentary:**
- Amandla!

WEEK 11: Thursday, November 15 - *Heart of Whiteness & Nonviolence Protects the State*

**Readings:**
- Conclusion: White People’s Burden

- Chapter 7

**Songs:**
- The Welfare Poets – Drop the Bomb
- The Welfare Poets - Resistance
- Immortal Technique – Poverty of Philosophy
- Immortal Technique – Fourth Branch

**Documentary:**
- Traces of the Trade: Slavery in the Deep North

WEEK 12: Thursday, November 22
Class Cancelled for Thanks-Taking

WEEK 13: Thursday, November 29
Final Paper Presentations

WEEK 14: Thursday, December 6
Final Paper Presentations

Monday December 10
*Final Papers Due: noon - 2pm @ my office in hard copy*