Crime and punishment are among the most important issues in contemporary US public discourse. Latinos and African Americans comprise a disproportionate and increasing number of prisoners in both state and federal prisons. The intent of this course is to examine the social conditions under which the increase of a Chicano (and African American) prison population occurs. We will therefore examine the formation of African Americans and Chicanos as racial subjects in relationship to the criminal justice system and criminal understanding. This course offers an introduction to the racialization of crime in the US. It will highlight the changing ideas of criminality in relation to African Americans and Chicanos, both historically as well as geographically. In addition this course will examine contemporary US and state policy that has sought to deter, punish, and rehabilitate its prisoners.

Primary topics include the historical myths and narratives of African American and Chicano criminals as these representations are situated within a particular historical moment as well as the patterns of violence, the role and organization of the police and policing and the evolution of punishment in theory and practice. The socio-historical focus will provide a frame to better understand US race relations in connection with the criminal justice system in order to debunk prevailing myths and false assumptions surrounding the issue of race and crime.

**Grading:**

- Quiz: 15%
- Paper/Presentation: 25%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final: 30%

**Quarter Schedule**

**Week 1-Introduction-Questions of Race**


- Media Matters For America. Bill Bennett’s Morning in America transcripts.

Page 2  Week 2-Race and History


14th Amendment

Wallerstein, Immanuel. History of Capitalism. Ch 3

Week 3-Race and Southwest Discourse


Week 4-Media Discourse and Criminology


Week 5-Narrative, Economy and Crime


Haley, Alex. The Autobiography of Malcolm X


PBS Special-The American Experience/Zoot Suit Riots

Week 6-Moral Panics, Media and Crime Policy

Hall, Stuart. Policing the Crisis.


**Week 7-Crime and the State**


**Week 8-Discourse and Demons**


Mauer, Marc. The Sentencing Project. 2003


**Week 9-Criminalized Borders**

Calavita, Kitty. Inside the State: the Bracero Program, Immigration and the INS

Davis, Mike. No One is Illegal.

**Week 10-Presentations**