

CRJ 204 1700: Criminal Justice and the Urban Community



SPRING 2021

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:45 pm in Zoom

Michelle Ronda, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Criminal Justice Program Coordinator

Dept. of Social Sciences, Human Services & Criminal Justice

BMCC/CUNY



vevo



AGENDA: Tuesday February 9, 2021

- Complete discussion of the Promise of the Sociological Imagination
- **How do we know what we know? Using systematic research to understand crime and justice in urban communities**

READ: Schwalbe, M. (2009). Finding out how the social world works. In J. Ferguson (ed.), *Mapping the Social Landscape* (6th ed.) (pp. 32-42). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, Inc.

- Looking ahead

Things to do by Tuesday, February 9

- 1. Join Remind (25 points)**
- 2. Upload your E-Learning orientation certificate to Blackboard (25 points)**

Looking ahead: Thursday, February 11

How do cities promote or undermine community?

READ: Jacobs, J. (1961). *Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Chapter 2: The uses of sidewalks – safety. In Gates and Stout (Eds.), *The City Reader*. Pp. 106-111.

DISTRIBUTE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSIGNMENT 1

Where were we? Sociological Imagination

- The sociological imagination: a **skill** and a **perspective** that permits us to understand our own biography by understanding history and the social structure (or social forces that impact our lives)
- A reminder that our individual choices are constrained
- It also offers a way to seek solutions to the public issues we face and often experience as private troubles
- PRIVATE troubles: within the character of the individual
- PUBLIC issues: involves a crisis in institutional arrangements
- Let's consider anxiety/depression

How do we know what we know?

Introduction to social research methods.

The sociological perspective is theoretical, and we can apply it to how we gather and analyze data.

- “The best way to learn about research is through hands-on experience gained by conducting a study.” Schwalbe**
- Reading begins with example of confusion between rates (percentages) and actual numbers of people living below the poverty line**

Poverty by the numbers, 2016

Title: Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity (Numbers)

Timeframe: 2016

Location	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
United States	17,494,800	8,719,100	11,251,700	3,611,900	41,077,500
California	1,438,100	496,800	2,836,400	708,900	5,480,200
Louisiana	384,800	444,300	57,400	42,000	928,500
Mississippi	185,100	387,900	N/A	N/A	626,800
New Jersey	311,800	188,700	261,700	81,200	843,300
New York	875,600	461,200	668,200	332,300	2,337,300
Pennsylvania	811,600	250,300	268,700	97,700	1,428,300
Texas	897,900	698,200	2,068,500	161,900	3,826,500

From the Keiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org)

Poverty by percentage, 2016

Title: Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity (Percentage)

Timeframe: 2016

Location	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
United States	9%	22%	20%	13%	13%
California	10%	23%	19%	10%	14%
Louisiana	14%	30%	24%	24%	20%
Mississippi	11%	36%	44%	N/A	21%
New Jersey	6%	17%	17%	8%	10%
New York	8%	17%	19%	15%	12%
Pennsylvania	8%	18%	31%	13%	11%
Texas	8%	21%	20%	9%	14%

Finding out how the social world works

Schwalbe says that these are some of ways we can know things.

What are the problems with these ways of knowing?

- Logical deduction
- Straight from others
- Personal experience or observation
- Systematic research
- Mystical revelation
- Instinctively

Which one does he recommend to find out about the social world?

Questions we can ask: Defining

- **Empirical questions:**
- **Aesthetic questions:**
- **Moral questions:**
- **Interpretation:**

What kind of question is this, following Schwalbe's definitions?

Empirical, aesthetic, moral, or interpretive?

- What percentage of college students get 7 hours of sleep a day?
- What is the average percentage of people who play video games as a stress-reliever?
- Are Protestants more likely to get into heaven?
- How many dog owners live in Brooklyn?
- Should people who are not virgins be permitted to marry in religious institutions?
- Should people be arrested for selling marijuana?
- What are the factors that contribute to school shootings?
- Is curly hair more attractive than straight hair?

Thinking about valid and reliable knowledge

- Breakout rooms
- Please have one person enter group responses on this form:
 - <https://forms.gle/uddsVxJ4SJ58YV5d6>
 - If you took notes last time, let someone else take notes this time

Things to do by Tuesday, February 9

- 1. Join Remind (25 points)**
- 2. Upload your E-Learning orientation certificate to Blackboard (25 points)**

Looking ahead: Thursday, February 11

How do cities promote or undermine community?

READ: Jacobs, J. (1961). *Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Chapter 2: The uses of sidewalks – safety. In Gates and Stout (Eds.), *The City Reader*. Pp. 106-111.

DISTRIBUTE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSIGNMENT 1