

**THE ROLE OF RACE IN U.S. URBAN STREET CRIME
VS. GENOCIDE IN DARFUR**
A Three-Page Essay Assignment
Due Date: May 31, 2018

BACKGROUND:

Two of the most important books in criminology over the last decade are Peterson and Krivo's book, *Divergent Social Worlds: Neighborhood Crime and the Racial-Spatial Divide*, and Hagan and Rymond-Richmond's book, *Darfur and the Crime of Genocide*. Each book makes an important contribution to criminology theory but in a different way. Peterson and Krivo develop a theory of racial residential segregation and neighborhood street crime in major cities of the U.S. By contrast, Hagan and Rymond-Richmond develop a theory of genocidal acts in Darfur.

ASSIGNMENT:

The purpose of this assignment is to contrast the explanation of crime in *Divergent Social Worlds* with that of *Darfur and the Crime of Genocide*. Although you may reference any portion of the two books, it may be useful to focus on Chapter 6 and 7 (pp. 105-192) of Hagan and Rymond-Richmond's *Darfur* book and Chapters 3-5 (pp. 50-109) of Peterson and Krivo's *Divergent* book.

Your essay should be written in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1" margins all around, **and no longer than three pages in length**. You should go beyond writing about superficial differences between the two studies—such as one deals with street crime in the U.S., while the other deals with genocide in Darfur—to the role of structural vs. collective action theories of crime emphasized in each book, and the role of race in these processes. Specifically, you should address the following three questions:

1. How do Peterson and Krivo explain the spatial distribution of street crime in major U.S. cities? What do they mean by "the racial-spatial divide?" How is this a structural explanation?
2. How do Hagan and Rymond-Richmond explain acts of genocide in Darfur? What do they mean by collective acts of violence? How do they use the concept of collective action?
3. How does each book conceptualize the role of race in the crimes that they analyze?

EVALUATION:

At minimum, the papers should demonstrate precisely how Peterson and Krivo explain the spatial distribution of crime within major U.S. cities and how Hagan and Rymond-Richmond explain collective acts of genocide in Darfur.

ASSISTANCE:

In addition to tapping your TA, Fran, as a resource to help you on the assignment, there are a number of resources available on campus, including the Sociology Writing Center (<https://soc.washington.edu/sociology-writing-center>), the Odegaard Writing Center (<http://depts.washington.edu/owrc>), and CLUE (<http://depts.washington.edu/clue/index.php>). We also highly recommend the little book, *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White. The first edition is available on the web at: <http://www.bartleby.com/141>.

DUE DATE:

The three-page essay is due **Thursday, May 31st** at the beginning of lecture (Kane 110).

GRADING:

The essay is worth a total of 15 points toward your total grade. Each essay will be graded check-plus, check, check-minus.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Papers and tests are to be original work. It is a breach of academic honesty to hand in work that is not your own or to use parts of someone else's work. Plagiarism is defined as "the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work." As straight-forward as this may sound, many students are often uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, which is a violation of the student code, and punishable at the University of Washington. Plagiarism includes any of the following:

1. Using another writer's ideas without proper citation.
2. Citing your source but reproducing the exact words of a printed source without quotation marks.
3. Borrowing the structure of another author's phrases or sentences without crediting the author from whom it came.

4. Borrowing all or part of another student's paper or using someone else's outline to write your own paper.
5. Using a paper writing "service" or having a friend write the paper for you.

Any form of plagiarism is grounds for failure in the class and removal from the University. A lack of familiarity with the rules of plagiarism or the student conduct code in no way constitutes an excuse for acts of misconduct. Knowledge of these rules is your responsibility. A clear definition of plagiarism and other types of academic misconduct is provided at <http://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>. For detailed information about other forms of academic misconduct and information about disciplinary sanctions for academic misconduct read the University's Student Conduct Code <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=478-120>.