

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

A. LOCATOR INFORMATION

Semester: Fall 2022
Course Number and Name: FYS 100: First Year Seminar (The Prison Industrial Complex)
Semesters Hours: Three (03)
Instructor: Dr. Mahfuzul I. Khondaker
Office Location: RL 4
E-mail: khondake@kutztown.edu
Office Hours: Tu/Th--1:30pm to 2:30pm, and W—10:30am-1:30pm

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION

First-Year Seminar is a required class that is designed to help students to make a meaningful transition from high school to college. This course teaches students the necessary skills to successfully navigate their college life. This course also introduces students to the kind of academic work expected at the college level. Students work closely with their professors and peers to explore a particular topic in depth and develop skills that are essential for success at the university.

This class will take an in-depth and critical look into the corporate, financial, and political interests behind the US prison expansion while helping students successfully transition to Kutztown University and adapt to the college environment. We will explore many resources that KU offers for students to be successful in their academic endeavor as well as to be responsible member of the society.

C. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Retrieve, evaluate, interpret, and use information
- B. Identify a goal and evaluate the process of setting and achieving that goal.
- C. Practice essential academic skills, including college-level writing, speaking, problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, documentation, and using the university's learning management system.
- D. Identify, analyze, and evaluate ethical issues, with attention to students' own values and those of diverse perspectives
- E. Identify student support services on campus in relation to students' own learning and study preferences to maximize students' success

D. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Grading

Point Distribution:

Attendance and participation—30
Assignment 1—10
Assignment 2—10
Assignment 3—25
Assignment 3b—10
Assignment 4—10
Assignment 5—10
Assignment 6—5
Assignment 7—15
Assignment 8—10
Assignment 9—5
Assignment 10—10
Final Assignment—25

Total—175

Grading Scale

90% - 100% --A
80% - 89% --B
70% - 79% --C
60% - 69% --D
Below 60% --F

If you have any concerns regarding your grade, please feel free to see me to resolve them. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you can appeal to the appropriate authority. Consult the KU Undergraduate Catalog for appeal policy.

F. COURSE OUTLINE and Reading Schedule

Here is a tentative outline of activities that we plan to complete throughout the semester. Please note that this outline can be changed depending on the progress of the class. You are welcome to bring up and discuss any issue in the class that you think might contribute to enhance our understanding of the issues related to the course.

Week 1: a. 8/30. Introduction to the class, syllabus, and each other
b. 9/1. Transitioning to College: Tips and strategies for success
Work on assignment 1 (Due week 2)

Week 2: a. 9/6. Presentation by Student Success and Academic Excellence Center
b. 9/8. Group work on *Assignment 2 (which is due in week 3)*

Week 3: a. 9/13. Library Resources and Information Processing
b. 9/15. What is Prison Industrial Complex?
Work on assignment 3a (first part due in week 4)

Week 4: a. 9/20. Overview of Email, MyKU, D2L and other IT related issues
b. 9/22. Group work on assignment 4b
Work on assignment 4a (due in week 5)

Week 5: a. 9/27. 13th Amendment and prison population
b. 9/29. Work on assignment 3b (due in week 6)

Week 6: a. 10/4. US prison population: Historical evolution
b. 10/6. Academic Planning (Meeting your advisor, Advisement and course registration, Major requirements, Scheduling advisement meeting, etc.)
Work on assignment 5 (Due in week 7)
Work on assignment 6 (Due in week 9)

Week 7: a. 10/11. Presentation by Career Development Center
b. 10/13. Work on assignment 7 (Due in week 10)

Week 8: a. 10/18. Criminalization of marijuana, war on drugs, and prison boom
b. 10/20. Work on assignment 8 (Due in week 11)

Week 9: a. 10/25. Multi-Cultural Understanding and Ethical Interactions (presentation by FDI, Women's Center, Etc.)
b. 10/27. Work on assignment 8 (Due in week 12)

Week 10: 11/1. a. Private prison
b. 11/3. Presentation by UGRC
Work on assignment 9 (Due in week 12)

Week 11: 11/8. a. Financial Literacy—Presentation by PESCU
b. 11/10. Campus Involvement and Connections—Presentation by Student Involvement, and Veteran Affairs
Work on assignment 10 (Due in week 13)

Week 12: a. 11/15. Rounding up illegal immigrants: Fueling prison business
b. 11/17. Code of Conducts and University Policies—Presentation by Office of Dean's of Students
Work on assignment 11 (TBD, something related to a university policy)(Due in week 14)

Week 13: 11/22 and 29. Solution to Prison Industrial Complex—Lessons from other countries

Week 14: 12/1. Work on final assignment

Week 15: 12/6 and 12/8. Celebration of Learning

Final assignment (due during finals week)

Academic Integrity Policy: Any form of cheating will not be tolerated. As outlined in the KU Undergraduate Catalog, this course will adhere to established policy regarding dishonesty during exams and in writing required assignments. I strongly recommend you read the section of Academic Integrity Policy from your Undergraduate Catalog. I will be happy to discuss any issue related to academic dishonesty in class or in my office. In the event of plagiarism or cheating in any academic work, I will enforce KU's policy.

Americans with Disability Act: I would appreciate hearing from any student who has a disability that may interfere with class. I am happy to make the accommodations specified by Advising and Testing if I am aware of them.

Assignments

Assignment 1: Write a short paper/make voice or video recording) about your own strategies for success in college that you may refer back from time to time.

Assignment 2 (Group project): Using information provided by the speaker from Student Success Center, make an advertisement (print/video) for the Success Center highlighting why it is essential for first year students.

Assignment 3—Part A: Using library database (such as Academic Search Complete, Films on Demand, Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full text, not google or another search engine), find at least 5 academic sources (peer-reviewed articles, books, documentary, TED talks, etc.) on Prison Industrial Complex and write (in your own words) a short paper (minimum 500 words) on Prison Industrial Complex. Cite the sources properly using APA or MLA style. Include the permalinks in your paper.

Assignment 3—Part B: Take your paper to the Writing Center and get it reviewed. Revise based on the feedback and submit both.

Assignment 4: You missed an assignment deadline that was due two days ago because of a situation that you did not have any control of. Write an email to your professor explaining the situation and requesting an extension.

Assignment 5: Find the checksheet for your major and plug in the classes that you are taking now in to the checksheet. Bring your completed checksheets and work with other students in different majors to compare academic paths and requirements.

Assignment 6: Make an appointment with your advisor and with their help, complete a Degree Planner (write down the classes that you will take each semester for next 4 years). Follow and refer to this planner each semester.

Assignment 7: Write a resume and take it to the Career Development Center for review. Revise it based on their review and submit both (one with their feedback and the revised one).

Assignment 8: Write a short paragraph on meeting people from diverse background in your everyday life and how they shape your perspectives.

Assignment 9. Talk to one of your current professors about their research interest and document them in writing or a video format. Make sure to use their office hours to meet them for this assignment.

Assignment 10: Visit one of the KU offices that are dedicated to students' success and write a paragraph of minimum of 250 words on one of them stating how they could contribute to your success at KU and beyond.

Final assignment: this assignment has two parts.

Part 1. Think about 5 things that you have learnt about the Prison Industrial Complex and what each of them tells you about our Criminal Justice System. (minimum 250 words)

Part 2. Think about 5 things (besides the Prison Industrial Complex) that you have learnt in this class which, you think, will help you to succeed at KU and beyond. Explain elaborately how each of these learnings/skills is beneficial for you.