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# Class, Race, Gender, and Crime: The Social Realities of Justice in America

By Gregg Barak, Paul Leighton, Allison Cotton



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*Class, Race, Gender, and Crime* is a popular, and provocative, introduction to crime and the criminal justice system through the lens of class, race, gender, and their intersections. Almost 15 years after its first publication, the book remains the only non-edited book to systematically explore how the main sites of power and privilege in the U.S. consciously or unconsciously shape our understanding of crime and justice in society today.

The fourth edition maintains the overall structure of the third edition—including consistent headings in chapters for class, race, gender, and intersections—with updated examples, current data, and recent theoretical developments incorporated throughout. Part I has been significantly revised, first providing students with an overview of the criminal justice system, its actors, and actions, then introducing students to key theories of crime criminals. Part II provides foundational information about class and economic privilege, race/ethnicity and white privilege, gender and male privilege, and their intersections. Part III looks thorough these lenses at the topics of victimization, criminal law, policing and criminal prosecution, and punishment. The fourth edition also welcomes a new co-author, Allison Cotton, to the team of Gregg Barak and Paul Leighton.

The fourth edition of *Class, Race, Gender, and Crime* is a powerful introduction to the strengths and shortcomings of the criminal justice system.



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

A hallmark of a great textbook is having the ability to make students think in a critical and discriminatory manner. This edition of *Class, Race, Gender, and Crime* is the epitome of a great text for not only students of criminal justice or criminology but all who are interested in the 'justness' of the criminal justice system. This revised and updated version has again systematically outlined the core issues and the complexity of class, race, and gender—and the importance of the interrelatedness of these concepts. The objectiveness of the text works to transform readers into critical consumers of knowledge. That is instrumental in higher learning, and this text has captured that critical objective. This edition has propelled this book to rank as one of the best texts written on the issue of class, race, gender, and crime in the fields of criminal justice, criminology, and justice studies. (Denise D. Nation, Winston-Salem State University)

The authors have revised and updated their excellent critical exploration of the impact of class, race, and gender on criminal justice practice in the United States. As with the earlier editions, written in clear, lively, jargon-free language, the book is an excellent text for students of criminal justice or criminology at all levels. No one can read this text without realizing the depth and complexity of the problems that face those who would make our criminal justice system truly a system of justice. (Jeffrey Reiman, William Fraser McDowell Professor Philosophy, American University; author of *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison*)

The authors once again demonstrate how class, race, gender, and crime—four explosive topics we're reluctant to talk about publicly—are interrelated and, more important, how these issues affect each and every one of us. For the authors, 'class' is not shorthand for the poor but includes the middle and upper class; 'gender' is not shorthand for women but includes men; 'race' is not shorthand for minorities but includes whites; and 'crime' is not shorthand for street crime but includes the crimes of the rich and powerful. Enlightening, sobering, and ultimately essential reading. This is admirable work. (Katheryn Russell-Brown, University of Florida)

#### About the Author

**Gregg Barak** is professor of criminology and criminal justice at Eastern Michigan University. He is the author of a number of books, including *Theft of a Nation: Wall Street Looting and Federal Regulatory Colluding*.

**Paul Leighton** is professor of criminology and criminal justice at Eastern Michigan University. He is author or co-author of several books, including *Punishment for Sale: Private Prisons, Big Business, and the Incarceration Binge* and *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice*.

**Allison Cotton** is associate professor of criminology and criminal justice at Metropolitan State University of Denver. She is author of the book *Effigy*.

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**Robert Nobles:**

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**Ann Lang:**

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