

## Cross-Cultural Criminal Justice (CRJU 440): Summer 2025

### Welcome!

#### About Me: Vanessa Lynn, Ph.D.

I have taught Corrections, Race and Crime, and Restorative Justice for the past five years at Marist College. I received my Ph.D. in Sociology from Stony Brook University, SUNY, and a Master of Science in Applied Social Research from Hunter College, CUNY. My research focuses on understanding rehabilitation, desistance, and reentry processes from the narratives and perspectives of formerly incarcerated people.

#### Course Overview:

What can we learn about justice from other countries? Are there better alternatives to be found elsewhere? The world is a diverse and complex setting for both crime and justice in their many forms. The call for studying international crime data, the adjudication of war criminals, and the attempt to coordinate law enforcement globally are just three stark examples of the need to further our understanding of transnational crime and justice issues. With the changes in global communication, travel, and commerce, the problems of international and comparative criminal justice are sure to increase in scope and intensity throughout the twenty-first century. The course is organized according to the criminal justice process, with an emphasis on comparisons among countries. Still, the focus is centered on six countries, each exemplifying a distinct family of law or justice system arrangement that affects the criminal process. We will also explore nine countries—Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Jamaica, Brazil, Thailand, Singapore, Australia, and Norway—to “see the world by seeing its prisons” (Dreisinger, 2017: 18).

#### Important Note:

Be prepared. This is a **400-level course** that you will be completing in just 8 weeks. If you can maintain discipline, the workload will be manageable. However, this online session will have **strict deadlines**.

**Week 1** is heavy. You will need to write a personal introduction, do a syllabus quiz, watch the movie "[Hotel Rwanda](#)" and watch a short TED Talk. Then, you will read two chapters from two books, write a reading reaction, and do a short quiz about the textbook and the TED Talk.

Course materials and PowerPoint slides will be released on **Sundays** (sometimes sooner). Movie and documentary reactions are due on select **Wednesdays**. Reading reactions and quizzes are due on most **Fridays**. There is one midterm paper and one final paper.

#### Required Books:

- Comparative Criminal Justice Systems by Harry R. Dammer; Jay S. Albanese, 2014. Cengage, 5th Edition.
- Incarceration Nations by Baz Dreisinger, 2017. New York: Other Press.