Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* argues that “we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.” By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness.

Students must do the following:

1. Acquire (buy or borrow) a copy of Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*
2. After you have read the book in its entirety address the following:
   a. How does Alexander support her thesis? Use specific references from the text when answering this question.
   b. Do you agree with Alexander’s argument? Why or Why not? Please do not simply repeat her argument provide your own opinion supported by experience and/or data.
   c. Is a Colorblind society a goal that we should be striving for? Are there any dangers/pitfalls in striving or achieving such a goal?
   d. Have the recent events in NYC, Ferguson, Ohio, Florida, as well as the release of the U.S. Justice Department report on policing impacted how Americans’ and the world view United States standing as shining example of a democracy that grants “Justice for all?” Do not simple answer YES or NO but provide evidence for your answer.

All assignments must be typed written in Times New Roman font size twelve -which is the same font and size as this assignment sheet.

All assignments are due **Wednesday April 8th, 2015 in class.**