

EC 137, Prof. Glenn C. Loury, February 20, 2007
Memo to Students on *Race, Crime and Punishment*

[Unfortunately, I must miss class today. Here are some remarks about what we'll do next in the course. GL]

- A. FYI, I've posted a useful summary of Bruce Western's book prepared for me by a graduate student last summer, in the Lecture Notes section of the course webpage. You should read Part II of Western's book, Chps. 4-7.
- B. I've added to the course webpage an article by Steven Levitt on explanations for the decline in crime during the 1990's, which argues that increased spending on police and increased imprisonment were important causal factors, but that a strong economy during the 1990s was not an important causal factor. You should take a look at this.
- C. I've also added to the course webpage a provocative article by Loic Wacquant, which develops his argument making an analogy between prisons and ghettos as institutions for the control of a stigmatized racial group. You should take a look at this article.
- D. The second short writing assignment will be handed out in class next Tuesday, 2/27/07, and will be due the following Tuesday, March 6, 2007.
- E. We have a TA for this course – Jane Seu – who will be available next week (after the paper topic has been assigned) to meet with students during the discussion section time that has been scheduled for our course, in the room at Rockefeller Library that has been assigned to us for that purpose.
- F. Looking ahead, after Western's book we will move on to a discussion of the death penalty and related issues. The primary reading there is Benjamin Fluery-Steiner's book, "Juror's Stories of Death."