

AFST1110 REVIEW

Student may should review and read two reviews of Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow* (*find reviews that are more critical of the book*). The reviews may come from newspapers, magazines or journals. After reading the reviews, the student will write a brief review of his/her own. The review should be two-three pages long, typed, and double-spaced. Paper graded on content, and connection to critical analysis of the book. The following guidelines will aid in the completion of this assignment. Head each section of the paper i.e. introduction, summary, critique, and conclusion.

NOTE:

This is not a summary of the book, but a **review**. To this end, the summary should not be the entire paper. You should be reading the reviews with a critical eye, paying attention to what the author(s) are saying and not saying, and how he/she is supporting the main thesis. As noted above, to assist you in keeping on track with the critique, label each section. In this way, you will know exactly what you should be discussing in that section.

Introduction (1-2 paragraphs)

Provide background information

- about Alexander's book
- what is her thesis
- why did she write the book

Summary (2 paragraphs)

Provide information on the reviews of her book

- who are the authors
- what are their main points about the book
(are they critical, are they praiseworthy)-give specifics
- identify some key points they make about the book
- are these points valid, and supported

Analyze (2-3 paragraphs)

Give your evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the reviews

- What impressed/or did not impress you about the reviews
- did the authors achieve their purpose?
- Did the reviews provide solid refutation of Alexander's book
 1. Did they discuss specific points made in the book, or was it a general view of her thesis?
 2. Point out any examples of bias, distortion, or sensationalism
 3. Point out some valid arguments
 4. Are there any significant omissions from this review, explain?

Conclusion (1-2 paragraphs)

- Summarize your views on Michelle's book in comparison with the reviews
- Were the reviews valid in their judgment, why or why not
- Give your judgment about whether the book would be useful to others who are studying African American culture
- Give your judgment on the importance of these reviews in relations to the book