Incarceration in the United States is the highest in the world. It plays a similar role to that of slavery and the Jim Crow laws in the past. The current system of mass incarceration is used as a racial caste system that subordinates and segregates people of color preventing their progress in society.

This research focuses on Michelle Alexander’s book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. It analyzes discrimination in the criminal justice system and shows how “… mass incarceration operates as a tightly networked system of laws, policies, customs and institutions…” (Alexander, 13) They promote the predominance of a racial caste system that did not end, but in reality continues into the twenty-first century, characterized by many as the ‘age of colorblindness.’

The research focuses on questions of race, class, and gender. It tested Alexander’s thesis and asks how the U.S. Criminal Justice system continues the Jim Crow caste system. To find out what Roxbury Community College (RCC) students think about the issue of mass incarceration and the caste system, the project included a survey and several campus interviews. The results confirmed that “today mass incarceration defines the meaning of blackness in America: Black people, especially black men, are criminals. That is what it means to be black.” (Alexander, 41) RCC students report the markers—race, class, and gender— are used by the U.S. criminal justice system. They continue to be used to discriminate and to promote a racial caste system.