

Spring 2008
Corrections and Society JS-104
Monday/Wednesday 13.30-14.45 (MH 529)

Instructor

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Office Hours

Mon/Wed 17.15-18.15

Course Description

This course will explore the main developments of penal practices in the Western world between the XIX and XXI centuries, as they relate to the transformations of capitalist societies. In this context, we will critically analyze the main historical trajectories shaping the rationalities of punishment: from the public spectacle of punishment to the emergence of mass imprisonment in the United States. In a contemporary perspective, the course will scrutinize the causes and consequences of the ongoing American “penal experiment”, with particular reference to its role in the reproduction of racial, economic, and ethnic inequalities. In this respect, the main sociological and theoretical approaches to the penal question will be introduced, and students will be expected to apply them to the analysis of past and present transformations in Western penal politics.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be aware of the different sociological dimensions of penalty, as well as of the main theoretical approaches to past and present transformations of punishment in Western societies.

Most importantly, participants will be expected to develop a critical knowledge of the economic, social, and cultural forces driving the current US experiment of mass-imprisonment, and of the significance of penal politics for contemporary neoliberal societies.

Graded Coursework

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Date Due</i>	<i>Percent of Total Grade</i>
Test ONE (5 Short Answer Questions)	02/27 (in class)	30% (max 30 points)
Test TWO (5 Short Answer Questions)	04/23 (in class)	30% (max 30 points)
Final PAPER (5-10 pages Written Essay)	05/12 (at home)	40% (max 40 points)

Important Note on Coursework

TESTS: These will be done in class, and will consist of 5 short answer questions. If you miss one test, there is the possibility of a makeup test reserved to the students who justify their absence with a doctor's certificate.

PAPER: This will be done at home, and will consist of a written essay on a topic chosen by each student from a list which will be made available by the instructor. The essay should be 5-10 pages long, double-spaced and typed in Word, Times New Roman (12pts). In order for the paper to be accepted, students are requested to discuss their projects and drafts at least once with the instructor, during office hours. The discussion should take place before 03/19/2008. No papers will be accepted without previous discussion!

Please consider that having office hours is a student's right: take advantage of it and feel free to come and see the instructor as you need.

Grading Method for Assignments, Term Papers, and Coursework

A [85 – 100]

Excellent, demonstrates original thought, superior command of written and classroom material, clarity and erudition in a structured presentation.

B [69 – 84]

Above average, some originality of thought, solid command of written and classroom materials, developed structure.

C [53 – 68]

Below average, little or no originality of thought, faltering command of written and classroom materials, awkward structure.

D [37 – 52]

Well below average. No creative response. cursory attention to detail. No appreciation for scholarship.

F [36 or below]

Does not meet minimum expectations for this course.

Required Readings

- David Garland, *Punishment and Modern Society: A Study in Social Theory*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1990.
- JS-104 *Reader* (available in printed form).

Recommended Readings

Jonathan Simon, *Governing Through Crime*, Oxford 2007.

Ruth Wilson Gilmore, *Golden Gulag*, Berkeley 2007.

Marie Gottschalk, *The Prison and the Gallows*, New York 2006

Recommended Viewings

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, *Babel*, 2007

Tom Fontana, *OZ* (Seasons 1-6), [HBO: 1997-2003].

Darnell Martin, *Prison Song*, 2001.

Class Topics and Assignments

Week 1	Introduction
Mon 01/21	No Lecture
Wed 01/23	Our Topic: Penal Politics in Contemporary Western Societies [No readings]
Week 2	The Sociology of Punishment: An Introduction
Mon 01/28	An Introduction to the Sociology of Punishment [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapter 1]
Wed 01/30	Consent and Conflict in the Sociology of Punishment [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapter 1]
Week 3	Punishment and Social Solidarity (1)
Mon 02/04	Durkheim and the Functionalist Theory of Punishment (Part I) [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapter 2]
Wed 02/06	Durkheim and the Functionalist Theory of Punishment (Part II) [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapter 3]
Week 4	Punishment and Social Solidarity (2)
Mon 02/11	Puritans, Witches, and Moral Boundaries [Reading: Kai T. Erikson, <i>On The Sociology of Deviance</i> , JS-104 Reader]
Wed 02/13	Lynching, Death Penalty and Democracy [Reading: Godoy, <i>When Justice is Criminal</i> , JS-104 Reader]
Week 5	Punishment and the Process of Civilization
Mon 02/18	Punishment and Cultural Sensibilities [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapter 10]
Wed 02/20	De-civilizing Punishment? [Reading: Pratt, <i>Towards the "De-Civilizing of Punishment?", JS-104 Reader]</i>
Week 6	Question Time/Recap/Test
Mon 02/25	Question Time and Recap [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Ch. 1,2,3,10] [Relevant readings from the JS-104 Reader]
Wed 02/27	<u>Test One: Five Short-Answer Questions</u> [30% of total grade]
Week 7	Movie 1
Mon 03/03	Movie: <i>Dead Man Walking</i> , 1995 (Intro/Part I) [Reading: Reviews of the movie, JS-104 Reader]
Wed 03/05	Movie: <i>Dead Man Walking</i> , 1995 (Part II/Discussion) [Reading: Sister Helen Prejean, <i>Death in Texas</i> , JS-104 Reader]
Week 8	Power, Discipline, and the Birth of the Prison (1)
Mon 03/10	Michel Foucault and the Birth of the Prison (Part I) [Reading: Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> , JS-104 Reader]
Wed 03/12	Michel Foucault and the Birth of the Prison (Part II) [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapter 6]

Week 9	Power, Discipline, and the Birth of the Prison (2)
<i>Mon 03/17</i>	Power, Knowledge and Disciplinary Society (Part I) [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapter 6]
<i>Wed 03/19</i>	Power, Knowledge and Disciplinary Society (Part II) [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapter 7]
Week 10	Alternative Histories of Punishment: Marxism (1)
<i>Mon 03/31</i>	<i>No Lecture</i>
<i>Wed 04/02</i>	Marxism and Penal History: (Part I) [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapter 4]
Week 11	Alternative Histories of Punishment: Marxism (2)
<i>Mon 04/07</i>	Marxism and Penal History (Part II) [Reading: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapter 5]
<i>Wed 04/09</i>	Marxism and the Political Economy of Punishment Today [Read: De Giorgi, <i>Political Economies of Contemporary Penality</i> , JS-104 Reader]
Week 12	Movie 2
<i>Mon 04/14</i>	Movie: <i>The Farm – Angola</i> , 1998 (Part I) [Readings: Reviews of the movie, JS-104 Reader]
<i>Wed 04/16</i>	Movie: <i>The Farm – Angola</i> , 1998 (Part II) [Readings: Reviews of the move, JS-104 Reader]
Week 13	Question Time/Recap/Test
<i>Mon 04/21</i>	Question Time and Recap [Readings: Garland, <i>Punishment and Modern Society</i> , Chapters: 4,5,6,7] [Relevant readings from the JS-104 Reader]
<i>Wed 04/23</i>	<u>Test Two: Five Short-Answer Questions</u> [30% of total grade]
Week 14	Punishment, Race and Inequality in the United States
<i>Mon 04/28</i>	The “Governing Through Crime” Hypothesis [Reading: Simon, <i>Governing Through Crime</i> , JS-104 Reader]
<i>Wed 04/30</i>	The “Deadly Symbiosis” Hypothesis [Reading: Wacquant, <i>Deadly Symbiosis</i> , JS-104 Reader]
Week 15	Movie 3
<i>Mon 05/05</i>	Movie: <i>Maria Full of Grace</i> , 2004 (Part I) [Reading: Reviews of the movie, JS-104 Reader]
<i>Wed 05/07</i>	Movie: <i>Maria Full of Grace</i> , 2004 (Part II) [Reading: Reviews of the movie, JS-104 Reader]
Week 16	The War Against Immigration Across Europe and the US
<i>Mon 05/12</i>	The War on Immigrants across Europe and the US [Reading: Wacquant, <i>Suitable Enemies</i> , JS-104 Reader] <u>Hand in Final Paper</u> [40% of total grade]

Student Conduct

Attendance: According to University policy F69-24 “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading”. Attendance is taken at each class meeting using sign-in sheets.

Etiquette: While in class please turn your cell phone off. If your laptop has wireless access you may use it to access information relevant to the discussion, but please do not read emails, newspapers or other non-class related material during class. Students are encouraged to speak up with questions and comments, and to respond to points raised by other students. However, the maintenance of an effective discussion space in class requires all of us to act with respect for everyone else in the room.

University Policies

Course Add/Drop Statement

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, instructors are not required to drop a student from their course. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, withdrawal, etc. found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work without the use of any outside resources. Academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor. We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct. To better understand plagiarism and to aid you in making sure that you are not plagiarizing, please see the instructor and visit: <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>

American with Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

The full statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities may be found at: <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/s90-5.htm>