

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 104 “Corrections and Society” Fall 2009

Instructor: Alessandro De Giorgi
Office Location: TBA
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Office Hours: Mondays: 2pm-5pm; Wednesdays: 9.15am-10.15am
Class Days/Time: Mon/Wed: 10.30am – 11.45am
Classroom: (MH 520)
Prerequisites: Upper division standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Interdisciplinary examination of issues of race, class, gender, ethnicity, economy, and culture as it relates to punishment, the penal process, and social control.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this course is to help students develop a critical understanding of historical and contemporary changes in the politics of punishment. More specifically, our aim is to analyze punishment as a socially constructed, culturally determined, and historically contingent social practice. Therefore, penal practices will not be treated here simply as institutional reactions to crimes, but rather as an ongoing social process through which each society defines particular behaviors and individuals as “outsiders”, developing consequent strategies to govern the most marginalized sectors of their populations. In turn, these strategies cannot be separated from broader processes of transformation taking place in the fields of the economy, culture, and politics. Through an analysis of these connections, students will develop a critical awareness of the differential impact of punishment on existing structures of racial, economic, ethnic, and gender inequality. In view of these learning objectives, participants will be engaged in reading, thinking, discussing, and writing critically about the history and the present of punishment in Western societies.

REQUIRED READINGS

- Barbara Hudson, *Understanding Justice*, Open University Press, New York 2003 (ISBN 0-335-21036-8). Available at Spartans Bookstore.
- Any reading distributed in class or uploaded on Blackboard (see the course schedule).

PLEASE NOTE: *Students are required to come to class having done the readings for that day, since the first 20 minutes of each meeting will be dedicated to discussing the readings.*

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

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.

DROPPING AND ADDING

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

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Percent of total grade</i>
Test ONE (3 written questions)	10/14/09 (in class)	30%
Test TWO (3 written questions)	12/02/09 (in class)	30%
Pop Tests (2 one-question quizzes)	ONGOING (in class)	20%
Movie Commentary	11/30/09 (at home)	20%

SPECIFICATIONS ON COURSEWORK

1) TESTS ONE AND TWO (30% + 30% of total grade):

These tests will be done in class, and will consist of 3 written questions. Each question will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 10 (for a maximum of 30 points for each quiz). You are kindly requested to come to class with your own blue-book on the dates the tests are due.

Please note: during the tests *no notes, no books, no open laptops, no mobile phones* will be allowed. If one test is missed due to family/health/work problems, there is the possibility of a makeup test, reserved only to the students who adequately certify the reasons for their absence (e.g. doctor's certificate, employer's statement, etc.).

2) POP-TESTS (10% + 10% of total grade):

These tests will be taken in class in the course of the semester, without notice. Each test will consist of 1 question about one of the topics discussed in class. Each question will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 10 (for a maximum of 10 points for each quiz). Please note: during the tests *no notes, no books, no laptops, no mobile phones* will be allowed. No makeup tests will be allowed.

3) MOVIE COMMENTARY (20% of total grade):

This will be done at home. Students will write a 2 pages, double spaced commentary about one of the movies/documentaries shown in class. In writing their comment, *students should make use of at least one of the theories of punishment discussed in class: failing to address the theoretical implications of the movie (i.e. simply summarizing the plot, etc.) will result in a low grade.* The assignment will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 20. Please note, this assignment is due on 11/30/2009 and must be submitted in printed form together with a certificate of originality from www.turnitin.com.

4) EXTRA CREDITS: Extra credits may be available during the semester. Students will be informed about this opportunity in class.

GRADING SYSTEM

<i>Grading System</i>	<i>Grade</i>
98-100	A+
94-97	A
91-93	A-
88-90	B+
84-87	B
81-83	B-
78-80	C+
74-77	C
71-73	C-
68-70	D+
64-67	D
61-63	D-
<60	F

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf).

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make 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 that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
1	8/24 8/26	Introductory Session: Syllabus/Requirements/Grading/Coursework Reading: Hudson, <i>Perspectives on Punishment</i> (Chapter 1)
2	8/31 9/2	Reading: Hudson, <i>Utilitarian Approaches</i> (Chapter 2) Reading: Hudson, <i>Retribution</i> (Chapter 3)
3	9/7 9/9	<i>Campus Closed</i> Reading: Hudson, <i>Restorative Justice</i> (Chapter 5)
4	9/14 9/16	Movie: Garrone, <i>Gomorra</i> (Italy 2008, 137 min.), Part One Movie: Garrone, <i>Gomorra</i> , Part Two
5	9/21 9/23	Discussion/in-class activities: <i>Gomorra</i> Reading: Garland, <i>Frameworks of Inquiry</i> (Blackboard)
6	9/28 9/30	Reading: Hudson, <i>Punishment and Progress</i> (Chapter 6) Reading: Melossi, <i>Durkheim's Sociology of Deviance</i> (Blackboard)
7	10/5 10/7	Reading: Erikson, <i>Notes on the Sociology of Deviance</i> (Blackboard) Documentary: Herrman – Whalen, <i>Tulia, Texas</i> (USA 2008, 57 min.)
8	10/12 10/14	Questions/Recap (Readings: Weeks 1-7) Test One: 3 Short-Answer Questions (30% of total grade)
9	10/19 10/21	Reading: Hudson, <i>The Political Economy of Punishment</i> (Chapter 7) Reading: Lynch, <i>Marxist Methods and Concepts in Criminology</i> (Blackboard)
10	10/26 10/28	Reading: Chambliss, <i>Toward a Political Economy of Crime</i> (Blackboard) Reading: Wacquant, <i>Crafting the Neoliberal State</i> (Blackboard)
11	11/2 11/4	Movie: Gibney, <i>Taxi to the Dark Side</i> (USA 2007, 106 min.), Part One Movie: Gibney, <i>Taxi to the Dark Side</i> , Part Two
12	11/9 11/11	Documentary: S. Mason, <i>Writ Writer</i> (USA 2008, 54 min.) <i>Campus closed</i>
13	11/16 11/18	Reading: Hudson, <i>The Disciplined Society</i> (Chapter 8) Reading: Foucault, <i>The Body of the Condemned</i> (Blackboard)
14	11/23 11/25	Reading: Bentham, <i>Panopticon</i> (Blackboard) Reading: Lyon, <i>An Electronic Panopticon?</i> (Blackboard)
15	11/30 12/2	Questions /Recap (Readings: Weeks 9-14). Movie Commentary Due [20%] Test Two: 3 Short-Answer Questions [30% of total grade].
16	12/7	Feedback on Test Two and Movie Commentary

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