

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STUDIES
Corrections and Society (JS-104)
Spring 2009

Monday/Wednesday 10.30am-11.45pm (MH 520)

Instructor

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Office Hours

Monday: 1.30pm-5.30pm
(Business Tower) BT-451

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. Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to engage students to develop a sociologically and historically grounded understanding of penal practices as they have evolved in Western societies, with particular reference to the United States. We will analyze punishment as a socially constructed and historically contingent practice whose cultural, political, and economic dimensions require sociological explanation. In this sense, penal practices will be explored not as sets of institutional reactions to criminal behaviors, but as social processes through which societies actively redefine themselves and their own boundaries, while at the same time reproducing existing structures of power and inequality. In turn, a sociologically and historically grounded understanding of punishment will allow students to develop a critical awareness of the selective impact of the criminal justice system from the point of view of racial, economic, ethnic, and gender inequalities.

REQUIRED READINGS

The required readings for this course are the following:

- JS-104 *Reader* (Spring 2009)
[Available at Maple Press, 481 E San Carlos Street, San Jose]
- Any material distributed in class or uploaded on Blackboard

SUGGESTED READINGS

Historical

- M. Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, Pantheon, New York 1978
[King Library, 3rd floor: [365.643 Foucault](#)]
- G. Rusche – O. Kirchheimer, *Punishment and Social Structure*, Russell, New York 1969
[King Library, 7th floor: [HV8497 .R85](#)]

- D. Melossi – M. Pavarini, *The Prison and the Factory*, MacMillan, London 1981
[King Library, 7th floor: [HV9163 .M4413 1981](#)]
- P. Spierenburg, *The Spectacle of Suffering*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1984
[King Library, 7th floor: [HV9710.A47 S64 1984](#)]

Contemporary

- A. De Giorgi, *Re-Thinking the Political Economy of Punishment*, Ashgate, Aldershot 2006
- D. Melossi, *Controlling Crime, Controlling Society*, Polity, Cambridge 2008
- D. Garland, *The Culture of Control*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2001
[King Library, 7th floor: [HV9950 .G36 2001](#)]
- J. Simon, *Governing Through Crime*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2007
[King Library, 7th floor: [HV6789 .S57 2007](#)]
- M.J. Lynch, *Big Prisons Big Dreams*, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick 2007
[King Library, 7th floor: [HV9304 .L96 2007](#)]
- J. Simon – M. Frampton – I. Lopez, *After the War on Crime*, NYU Press, New York 2008
[King Library, 7th floor: [HV6789 .A3443 2008](#)]
- B. Jarvis, *Cruel and Unusual. Punishment and US Culture*, Pluto Press, London 2004
[King Library, 7th floor: HV9466 .J37 20064]

Novels

- E. Bunker, *Education of a Felon: A Memoir*. St. Martin's Press, New York 2000
[King Library, 7th floor: [HV6248.B7733 A3 2000](#)]
- G. Jackson, *Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson*, Lawrence Hill Books, Chicago 1994
[King Library, 3rd floor: [365.6092 JACKSON Jackson](#)]

SUGGESTED MOVIES

- E. Morris, *The Thin Blue Line*, 1988
[King Library, 3rd floor: [VIDEO 364.1523 ADAMS](#)]
- E. Morris *Standard Operating Procedure*, 2008

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Percent of total grade</i>
Test ONE (3 written questions)	03/18/2009 (in class)	30%
Test TWO (3 written questions)	05/13/2009 (in class)	30%
Pop tests (3 one-question quizzes)	ONGOING (in class)	30%
Movie Commentary	05/13/2009 (at home)	10%

SPECIFICATIONS ABOUT 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* 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% + 10% of total grade):

These tests will be taken in class during 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* will be allowed. No makeup tests will be allowed.

3) MOVIE COMMENTARY (10% of total grade):

This will be done at home. Students will write a 2 pages, double spaced commentary about one of the movies shown in class. In writing their comment, *students should make use of at least one of the sociological theories of punishment discussed in class.* The assignment will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 10. Please note, this assignment is due on 05/13/2009 (last day of class) and must be submitted in printed form.

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

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

IMPORTANT: You are expected to do the readings indicated in the weekly schedule *in advance of each class*. The readings will be discussed in class, and the instructor expects that all students will be able to participate with questions, comments, etc.

Week 1 INTRODUCTION

M 01/26 General Introduction: Assignments/Grading/Attendance

W 01/28 Punishment and Society: an Introduction

Week 2 SOCIOLOGIES OF PUNISHMENT: CONSENT VS CONFLICT

M 02/02 The Social Construction of Crime and Punishment

W 02/04 Reading: Lynch, *Punishment and Corrections: A Radical Interpretation* (JS-104 Reader)

Week 3 SCRUTINIZING THE KILLING STATE

M 02/09 Movie: T. Robbins, *Dead Man Walking* (1995, 122 min.)
[Introduction/Part I]

W 02/11 Movie: T. Robbins, *Dead Man Walking* (1995, 122 min.)
[Part II/Discussion]

Week 4 FUNCTIONALISM AND THE NORMALITY OF CRIME

M 02/16 Reading: Garland, *Punishment and Social Solidarity* (JS-104 Reader)

W 02/18 Reading: Erikson & Dentler, *The Functions of Deviance in Groups* (JS-104 Reader)

Week 5 PUNISHMENT AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

M 02/23 Reading: Durkheim, *Crime and Punishment* (JS-104 Reader)

W 02/25 Reading: Erikson, *Notes on the Sociology of Deviance* (JS-104 Reader)

Week 6 PUNISHMENT AND CIVILIZATION

M 03/02 Reading: Garland, *Punishment and Sensibilities* (JS-104 Reader)

W 03/04 Reading: Spierenburg, *The Spectacle of Suffering*, Ch. 6 (JS-104 Reader)

Week 7 PUNISHMENT, VENGEANCE, AND SOCIAL SENSIBILITIES

M 03/09 Reading: Linders and Groschwitz, *The Return of the Spectacle?* (JS-104 Reader)

W 03/11 Reading: Lynch, *The Disposal of Inmate 85271* (JS-104 Reader)

Week 8 RECAP AND TEST 1

M 03/16 Question Time/Recap

[Readings: JS-104 Reader/Weeks 1-7]

W 03/18 Test One: 3 Short-Answer Questions [30% of total grade]

Week 9 SPRING RECESS

Week 10 TORTURE AND THE DE-CIVILIZING PROCESS

M 03/30 Movie: A. Gibney, *Taxi to the Dark Side* (2007, 106 min.)
[Introduction/Part I]

W 04/01 Movie: A. Gibney, *Taxi to the Dark Side* (2007, 106 min.)
[Part II/Discussion]

Week 11 RADICAL HISTORIES OF THE PRISON: THE MATERIALIST PERSPECTIVE

M 04/06 Reading: Lynch, *Marxist Methods and Concepts in Criminology* (JS-104 Reader)

W 04/08 Reading: De Giorgi, *The Political Economy of Penality* (JS-104 Reader)

Week 12 PUNISHMENT AND POLITICAL ECONOMY

M 04/13 Reading: Rusche, *Labor Market and Penal Sanction*, (JS-104 Reader)

W 04/15 Reading: Wacquant, *The Great Penal Leap Backward* (JS-104 Reader)

Week 13 RADICAL HISTORIES OF THE PRISON: THE DISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

M 04/20 Reading: Garland, *Punishment and the Technologies of Power* (JS-104 Reader)

W 04/22 Reading: Foucault, *The Body of the Condemned* (JS-104 Reader)

Week 14 PUNISHMENT, DOCILE BODIES, AND THE DISCIPLINARY SOCIETY

M 04/27 Reading: Howe, *The Foucault Effect: From Penology to Penality* (JS-104 Reader)

W 04/29 Reading: Foucault, *Prison Talk* (JS-104 Reader)

Week 15 POWER, KNOWLEDGE, AND DISCIPLINE IN THE ASYLUM

M 05/04 Movie: M. Forman, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975, 133 min.)
[Introduction/Part I]

W 05/06 Movie: M. Forman, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975, 133 min.)
[Part II/Discussion]

Week 16 RECAP AND TEST 2

M 05/11 Question Time/Recap
[Readings: JS-104 Reader/Weeks 9-15]

W 05/13 Test Two: 3 Short-Answer Questions [30% of total grade].
Movie Commentary Due [10% 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 demonstrate a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor: therefore, they will not be tolerated under any circumstance. 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 that students with disabilities requesting accommodations 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>