

**San José State University  
Justice Studies Department  
“Corrections and Society”  
JS-104 (section 03 #49065)  
Fall 2010**

**Instructor:** Alessandro De Giorgi  
**Office Location:** McQuarrie Hall: TBA  
**Telephone:** (408) 924.2967  
**Email:** [degorgi@casa.sjsu.edu](mailto:degorgi@casa.sjsu.edu)  
**Office Hours:** MON: 12.45pm-3.45pm  
WED: 7pm-8pm (online)  
**Class Days/Time:** M-W: 9.00am-10.15am  
**Classroom:** MH-520

**TURNITIN.COM:**  
CLASS ID: 3321664  
PASSWORD: fall

**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 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 will be linked to broader transformations 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 past and present of punishment in Western societies, with particular reference to the United States.

## TEXTBOOKS

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Students are expected to come to class having done the readings for that day, since during each session students will be required to offer their comments on 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

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Percent of total grade</i>
TEST ONE (2 short-answer questions)	9/27/2010 (in class)	<b>20%</b>
TEST TWO (2 short-answer questions)	10/20/2010 (in class)	<b>20%</b>
Test THREE (2 short-answer questions)	12/6/2010 (in class)	<b>20%</b>
MOVIE COMMENTARY	12/8/2010 (at home)	<b>20%</b>
FINAL EXAM (20 multiple-choice questions)	TBA (in class)	<b>20%</b>

## SPECIFICATIONS ON COURSEWORK

1) TESTS ONE/TWO/THREE (20% + 20% + 20% of total grade):

These tests will be done in class, and will consist of 2 written questions. *The tests will cover content from assigned readings and lecture materials.* Each question will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 10 (for a maximum of 20 points for each quiz). Assignments will be graded on *content, argumentation, and writing*. Please note: during the tests *no notes, books, open laptops, mobile phones* will be allowed. If one test is missed due to family/health/work problems, there is the possibility of a makeup test only for those students who adequately certify the reasons for their absence (e.g. doctor's certificate, employer's statement, etc.).

2) 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 commentary, *students should make use of at least one of the legal or sociological theories of punishment discussed in class; not addressing the theoretical implications of the movie (i.e. simply summarizing the plot, etc.) will result in a failing grade.* Assignments will be graded on *content, argumentation, and writing*. The assignment will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 20. Please note, this assignment is due on 12/6/2010 and must be submitted in printed form together with a certificate of originality from [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) (CLASS ID: **3321664**; PASSWORD: **fall**)

3) FINAL EXAM (20% of total grade):

The final exam will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions. *The test will cover content from assigned readings and lecture materials.* Each correct answer will receive 1 point (wrong answers will receive 0 points), for a maximum of 20 points. *Students are required to provide their own Scantron answer sheet.*

4) EXTRA CREDITS: Extra credits may be available during the semester. Students will be notified 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

### **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.

### **STUDENT TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **LEARNING ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER**

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. [The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/).

**SJSU WRITING CENTER**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. [The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/).

**PEER MENTOR CENTER**

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. [Website of Peer Mentor Center is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/).

**JS-104 Corrections and Society  
(Section 03) Fall 2010**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES</b>
1	W: 8/25	Introduction/Syllabus/Requirements/Deadlines
2	M: 8/30 W: 9/1	<u>Reading:</u> Hudson, <i>Perspectives on punishment</i> (Chapter 1) <u>Reading:</u> Hudson, <i>Utilitarian approaches</i> (Chapter 2)
3	M: 9/6 W: 9/8	NO CLASS (LABOR DAY: CAMPUS CLOSED) <u>Reading:</u> Hudson, <i>Retribution</i> (Chapter 3)
4	M: 9/13 W: 9/15	<u>Documentary:</u> S. Mason, <i>Writ Writer</i> (USA, 2008) <u>Reading:</u> Hudson, <i>Restorative justice</i> (Chapter 5)
5	M: 9/20 W: 9/22	<u>Documentary:</u> Zimbardo, <i>The Stanford Prison Experiment</i> (USA, 2004) <u>Recap and Debate:</u> LEGAL THEORIES OF PUNISHMENT
6	M: 9/27 W: 9/29	<b>TEST I: 2 SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS (20% OF TOTAL GRADE)</b> <u>Reading:</u> Hudson, <i>Punishment and progress</i> (Chapter 6)
7	M: 10/4 W: 10/6	<u>Reading:</u> Hudson, <i>Punishment and progress</i> (continued) <u>Reading:</u> Erikson, <i>Notes on the sociology of deviance</i> ( <u>electronic</u> )
8	M: 10/11 W: 10/13	<u>Movie:</u> A. Gibney, <i>Taxi to the Dark Side</i> (USA 2008) Part I <u>Movie:</u> A. Gibney, <i>Taxi to the Dark Side</i> (USA 2008) Part II
9	M: 10/18 W: 10/20	<u>Recap and Debate:</u> FUNCTIONALISM AND DURKHEIM <b>TEST II: 2 SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS (20% OF TOTAL GRADE)</b>
10	M: 10/25 W: 10/27	<u>Reading:</u> Hudson, <i>The political economy of punishment</i> (Chapter 7) <u>Reading:</u> Lynch, <i>Marxist methods and concepts in criminology</i> ( <u>electronic</u> )
11	M: 11/1 W: 11/3	<u>Reading:</u> Davis, <i>Globalism and the prison industrial complex</i> ( <u>electronic</u> ) <u>Reading:</u> Beckett, <i>Governing social marginality</i> ( <u>electronic</u> )
12	M: 11/8 W: 11/10	<u>Documentary:</u> N. Cousino, <i>Concrete and Sunshine</i> (USA 2002) <u>Recap and Debate:</u> MARXIST CRIMINOLOGY
13	M: 11/15 W: 11/17	<u>Reading:</u> Hudson, <i>The Disciplined Society</i> (Chapter 8) <u>Reading:</u> Foucault, <i>The body of the condemned</i> ( <u>electronic</u> )
14	M: 11/22 W: 11/24	<u>Reading:</u> Bentham, <i>Panopticon</i> ( <u>electronic</u> ) <u>Recap and Debate:</u> FOUCAULT AND DISCIPLINARY PUNISHMENT
15	M: 11/29 W: 12/1	<u>Movie:</u> K. Booth, <i>American Drug War</i> (USA 2007) Part I <u>Movie:</u> K. Booth, <i>American Drug War</i> (USA 2007) Part II
16	M: 12/6 W: 12/8	<b>TEST III: 2 SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS (20% OF TOTAL GRADE)</b> <b>Movie commentary due</b>
	TBA	<b>FINAL EXAM (20% OF TOTAL GRADE)</b>