

**San José State University  
Justice Studies Department  
Special Topics in Law & Justice  
JS-111 (section 01) #26413  
Spring 2010**

**Instructor:** Alessandro De Giorgi  
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**Office Hours:** MON: 2.15pm-5.15pm  
WED: 7pm-8pm (online)  
**Class Days/Time:** M-W: 12.00-13.15  
**Classroom:** MH-523  
**Prerequisites:** Upper division standing

**PLEASE NOTE**

The schedule of classes might be subject to change due to furloughs mandated by SJSU.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Range of law and justice issues and topics may be addressed. Content varies by semester. Topics may include international law and globalization, the struggle for justice, human rights, law, inequality and injustice, and others.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course will offer a critical reconstruction of the current prison crisis in the United States. The first part of the course will concentrate specifically on the historic origins of the penitentiary institution in the U.S., while the second part will examine contemporary American penal politics, with particular reference to the war on drugs, the war on crime, and the war on terrorism. Students will be encouraged to analyze the broad socio-economic and political consequences of mass-imprisonment, with particular reference to issues of race, gender, and class inequality in American society.

PLEASE NOTE: *This course is intended as an interactive learning experience, based on active participation. Throughout the semester students will be required to work in groups and offer in-class presentations about relevant topics in the field of criminal justice. Therefore, regular attendance and consistent preparation on the required readings are essential conditions for a successful completion of the course.*

### REQUIRED READINGS

Bosworth, M. (2010). *Explaining U.S. Imprisonment*. London: Sage (ISBN 978-1-4129-2487-0).

Welch, M. (2005). *Ironies of Imprisonment*. London: Sage (ISBN 978-0-7619-3059-4).

### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Percent of total grade</i>
Reading Responses	ONGOING (in class)	10%
In-class presentations	ONGOING (in class)	30%
Pop Tests (2 one-question quizzes)	ONGOING (in class)	20%
Final Test	5/12/2010 (in class)	40%

### 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

## SPECIFICATIONS ON COURSEWORK

### 1) **Reading Responses (ongoing): 10% of final grade**

Throughout the semester, all students are expected to come to class with a 1 page (computer typed) reading response about the reading due for that class. In their reading responses, students are expected to:

- 1) *Describe* the reading's main topic
- 2) *Raise two questions* to be debated in class.

During each meeting, *randomly selected students* will be asked to illustrate their own reading response to the class, in order to get the debate started. These *reading responses must then be submitted to the instructor*, and will receive a grade ranging from 0 to 10 points (10% of final grade). Depending on the number of participants, the instructor will inform students about the number of students who will be required to illustrate and submit their responses during each session.

PLEASE NOTE: failing to illustrate and/or submit the reading response two or more times will result in a failing grade for this course assignment.

### 2) **In-class presentations (ongoing): 30% of final grade**

Throughout the semester, all students will offer *group-presentations* about the readings due for that class. Each group's presentation should last 30/35 minutes and should include:

- 1) *Summary* of the reading's topic
- 2) *Analysis* of the main concepts presented by the author
- 3) *Critical Reflection* on the reading's arguments.

Each student will receive a grade ranging from 0 to 30 points (30% of final grade) for their presentation. The detailed calendar of presentations will be available during the first week of instruction. PLEASE NOTE: make-up presentations will not be allowed.

### 3) **Pop-Tests (ongoing): 10% + 10% of final 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/readings discussed in class. Each question will receive a grade between 0 and 10 (for a maximum of 10 points for each quiz). During the tests *no notes, no books, no laptops, no mobile phones* will be allowed. PLEASE NOTE: no makeup tests will be allowed.

### 4) **Final Test (5/17/2010): 40% of total grade**

This tests will be taken in class, and will consist of 4 short-answer questions. Each answer will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 10 (for a maximum of 40 points). Students are kindly requested to come to class with their own blue-book on the date the test is due.

During the test *no notes, no books, no open laptops, no mobile phones* will be allowed. If the 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.).

### 5) **Extra credits**

Students can earn extra credits by submitting voluntary reading responses on the chapters assigned for each session. Each supplemental reading response will earn a maximum of 2 points. There is no limit to the number of optional reading responses students can submit, but if the required reading response is missed (see point 1 above), 10 points will be subtracted from the final grade.

## **CLASSROOM PROTOCOL**

This is a seminar based on students' active involvement and participation. Each topic will be analyzed, presented, and thoroughly discussed in class during each meeting. Students are expected to come to class having done the assigned readings, and to bring to class their *reading responses* according to the weekly schedule (see section below: "Weekly Schedule and Assignments"). Ongoing participation, consistent attendance, and competent debate is crucial for a successful completion of JS-111.

## **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.

## **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/).

**Special Topics in Law and Justice**  
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WEEK	DATE	TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
1	M: 1/27	Introduction/Syllabus/Requirements/Calendar
2	M: 2/01 W: 2/03	<u>Reading:</u> Bosworth, <i>The Origins of U.S. Imprisonment</i> (Ch. 1) <u>Reading:</u> Bosworth, <i>Penal Reform and Prison Science</i> (Ch. 2)
3	M: 2/08 W: 2/10	<u>Reading:</u> Welch, <i>Discovery of the Penitentiary</i> (Ch. 1) <u>Reading:</u> Bosworth, <i>Prison Culture</i> (Ch. 3)
4	M: 2/15 W: 2/17	NO CLASS: INSTRUCTOR ON FURLOUGH <u>Reading:</u> Bosworth, <i>An Era of Uncertainty</i> (Ch. 4)
5	M: 2/22 W: 2/24	<u>Reading:</u> Welch, <i>Critical Penology</i> (Ch. 3) NO CLASS: INSTRUCTOR ON FURLOUGH
6	M: 3/1 W: 3/3	<u>Reading:</u> Bosworth, <i>The Punitive Turn</i> (Ch. 5) <u>Reading:</u> Welch, <i>War on Drugs and Just War Theory</i> (Ch. 4)
7	M: 3/8 W: 3/10	<u>Documentary:</u> Whalen, <i>Tulia, Texas</i> (USA 2008) <u>Reading:</u> Bosworth, <i>A Culture of Control</i> (Ch. 6)
8	M: 3/15 W: 3/17	<u>Reading:</u> Welch, <i>Health Care Crisis Behind Bars</i> (Ch. 5) <u>Reading:</u> Welch, <i>Reproducing Prison Violence</i> (Ch. 6)
9	M: 3/22 W: 3/24	<u>Documentary:</u> Zimbardo, <i>The Stanford Prison Experiment</i> ( USA 2004) NO CLASS: INSTRUCTOR ON FURLOUGH
10	M: 3/29 W: 3/31	NO CLASS: SPRING RECESS NO CLASS: SPRING RECESS
11	M: 4/5 W: 4/7	<u>Reading:</u> Bosworth, <i>Challenging the Culture of Control?</i> (Ch. 7) <u>Reading:</u> Welch, <i>Ironies of Capital Punishment</i> (Ch. 7)
12	M: 4/12 W: 4/14	<u>Reading:</u> Welch, <i>War on Terror and the Misuse of Detention</i> (Ch. 8) <u>Reading:</u> Bosworth, <i>The New Detention: Securing the Border</i> (Ch. 8)
13	M: 4/19 W: 4/21	<u>Reading:</u> Welch, <i>Punitive Profit</i> (Ch. 9) <u>Reading:</u> Davis, <i>Globalism and the Prison Industrial Complex</i> ( <u>Blackboard</u> )
14	M: 4/26 W: 4/28	NO CLASS: INSTRUCTOR ON FURLOUGH <u>Documentary:</u> Cousino, <i>Concrete and Sunshine</i> (USA 2002, 56 min.)
15	M: 5/3 W: 5/5	<u>Reading:</u> Welch, <i>Confronting Corrections</i> (Ch. 10) <u>Reading:</u> Bosworth, <i>Conclusion. Where To From Here?</i>
16	M: 5/10 W: 5/12	<u>Documentary:</u> S. Mason, <i>Writ Writer</i> (USA 2008) Final Test: 4 Short-Answer Questions (40% of total grade)
17	M: 5/17	Feedback on Final Test