

San José State University
Justice Studies Department
Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems
JS-104 (section 01) #30224
Summer 2010

Instructor: Alessandro De Giorgi
Office Location: MacQuarrie Hall (TBA)
Telephone: (408) 924.2967
Email: degiorgi@casa.sjsu.edu
Office Hours: TUE: 5pm – 6pm
Class Days/Time: TUE-THU: 1.00pm – 4.45pm
Classroom: MH-322
Turnitin.com: ID: **3291870** PW: **Summer**

Please note:

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

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.

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 uploaded on Blackboard (see the course schedule).

PLEASE NOTE: *Students are expected to come to class having done the readings for that day.*

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 (3 written questions)	6/15/2010 (in class)	30%
Test TWO (3 written questions)	7/1/2010 (in class)	30%
Test THREE (3 written questions)	7/8/2010 (in class)	30%
Movie Commentary	7/8/2010 (at home)	10%

SPECIFICATIONS ON COURSEWORK

1) TESTS ONE/TWO/THREE (30% + 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, books, open laptops, mobile phones* will be allowed.

2) 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/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 7/8/2010 and must be submitted in printed form together with a certificate of originality from www.turnitin.com.

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 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd 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 1st 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*
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COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
1	TUE: 6/8	SYLLABUS/ASSIGNMENTS/DEADLINES INTRO: LEGAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF PUNISHMENT [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 1]
1	THU: 6/10	LEGAL THEORIES I: UTILITARIANISM [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 2]
2	TUE: 6/15	LEGAL THEORIES II: RETRIBUTION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapters 3 and 5] Test 1: Three Short-Answer Questions (30% of final grade)
2	THU: 6/17	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES I: DURKHEIM AND FUNCTIONALISM [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 6] Documentary 1: T. Dirdamal, <i>De Nadie</i> (USA 2007, 84 min.)
3	TUE: 6/22	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES I: DURKHEIM AND FUNCTIONALISM [Reading: Erikson, <i>Notes on the Sociology of Punishment</i> (Blackboard)] Documentary 2: S. Mason, <i>Writ Writer</i> (USA 2008, 54 min.)
3	THU: 6/24	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES II: MARXIST CRIMINOLOGY [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 7] Documentary 3: N. Cousino, <i>Concrete and Sunshine</i> (USA 2002, 56 min.)
4	TUE: 6/29	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES II: MARXIST CRIMINOLOGY [Reading: Davis, <i>Globalism and the Prison Industrial Complex</i> (Blackboard)] Test 2: Three Short-Answer Questions (30% of final grade)
4	THU: 7/1	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES III: POWER, KNOWLEDGE, PUNISHMENT [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 8] Documentary 4: A. Gibney, <i>Taxi to the Dark Side</i> (USA 2007, 106 min.)
5	TUE: 7/6	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES III: POWER, KNOWLEDGE, PUNISHMENT [Reading: Bentham, <i>Panopticon</i> (Blackboard)] Test 3: Three Short-Answer Questions (30% of final grade)
5	THU: 7/8	CONCLUSION/FEEDBACK/COMMENTS Movie Commentary Due (10% of final grade)