

San José State University
Justice Studies Department
JS-104 Penal Politics & Institutions (section 01) #30411
Summer 2014

Instructor: Alessandro De Giorgi

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Office Hours: MON: 10.15am – 12.15pm

Class Days/Time: TUE-THU: 12:30pm – 4:20pm

Classroom: MacQuarrie Hall 235

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.

PLEASE NOTE: A grade of “C” or better is required for graduation.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Develop a critical understanding of historical and contemporary changes in the politics of punishment. More specifically, students will be able to analyze punishment as a socially constructed, culturally determined, and historically contingent social practice (SLO1). Satisfaction of this learning outcome will be measured through IN-CLASS TESTS (see schedule).
2. Analyze penal practices not simply as institutional responses to crimes, but rather as an ongoing social process through which societies define particular behaviors and individuals as “outsiders”, and develop consequent strategies to govern the most marginal sectors of their populations. Students will also be able to link penal policies to broader transformations taking place in the fields of the economy, culture, and politics (SLO2). Satisfaction of this learning outcome will be measured through IN-CLASS TESTS and a MOVIE COMMENTARY)
3. Develop a critical awareness of the differential impact of penal institutions on existing structures of racial, economic, ethnic, and gender inequality contemporary societies, with particular reference to the United States (SLO3). Satisfaction of this learning outcome will be measured through IN-CLASS TESTS, a MOVIE COMMENTARY, and a FINAL EXAM (multiple choice).

TEXTBOOKS

1) Barbara Hudson, *Understanding Justice*, Open University Press, New York 2003 (ISBN 0-335-21036-8). Available at online bookstores (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Abebooks, etc.).

Please note: one copy of this textbook will be on reserve in the JS Department.

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 assigned for that day, since during each session students will be asked 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)	6/12/2014 (in class)	20%
TEST TWO (2 short-answer questions)	6/19/2014 (in class)	20%
CURRENT EVENTS BLOG ENTRY (1 page)	6/24/2014 (home)	10%
TEST THREE (2 short-answer questions)	6/26/2014 (in class)	20%
MOVIE COMMENTARY	7/1/2014 (home)	10%
FINAL EXAM (20 multiple-choice questions)	7/1/2014 (in class)	20%

SPECIFICATIONS ON COURSEWORK

1) CURRENT EVENTS BLOG ENTRY (10% of total grade)

In order to complete this assignment, students are requested to write a 1 page long blog entry suitable to be published on the JS Department's website. The blog entry must be a critical comment on a justice-related news published on a major national or local newspaper or TV broadcast between May 15 2014 and June 15, 2014. Students should submit their blog entries by email to alessandro.degiorgi@sjsu.edu no later than **June 24th, 2014**. Assignments will be graded based on *content*, *structure*, and *writing*.

2) 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 test). Assignments will be graded on *content*, *structure*, and *writing*. Please note: during the tests *no notes, books, open laptops, mobile phones* will be allowed.

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

This will be done at home. Students will write a 2 pages long, 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 10. Please note, this assignment is due on **July 1st, 2014** and must be submitted electronically (as email attachments) to alessandro.degiorgi@sjsu.edu.

4) 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.*

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/).

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COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
1	TUE: 6/3	SYLLABUS/ASSIGNMENTS/DEADLINES INTRO: LEGAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF PUNISHMENT [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 1]
1	THU: 6/5	LEGAL THEORIES I: UTILITARIANISM [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 2] DOCUMENTARY 1: <i>Quiet Rage. The Stanford Prison Experiment</i> (2004)
2	TUE: 6/10	LEGAL THEORIES II: RETRIBUTION [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 3] DOCUMENTARY 2: <i>Writ Writer</i> (USA 2008)
2	THU: 6/12	LEGAL THEORIES II: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 5] RECAP & DISCUSSION: LEGAL THEORIES OF PUNISHMENT [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapters 1-2-3-5] Test 1: Two Short-Answer Questions (20% of final grade)
3	TUE: 6/17	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES I: DURKHEIM AND FUNCTIONALISM [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 6] DOCUMENTARY 3: <i>Deadline</i> (USA, 2004)
3	THU: 6/19	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES II: MARXIST CRIMINOLOGY [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 7] [Reading: Davis, <i>Globalism and the Prison Industrial Complex</i> (electronic)] DOCUMENTARY 4: <i>Concrete and Sunshine</i> (USA 2002) Test 2: Two Short-Answer Questions (20% of final grade)
4	TUE: 6/24	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES III: POWER, KNOWLEDGE, PUNISHMENT [Reading: Hudson, <i>Understanding Justice</i> , Chapter 8] DOCUMENTARY 5: <i>Juvis</i> (USA, 2005) Current Events Blog Entry Due (10% of final grade)
4	THU: 6/26	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES III: POWER, KNOWLEDGE, PUNISHMENT [Reading: Bentham, <i>Panopticon</i> (electronic)] Test 3: Two Short-Answer Questions (20% of final grade)
5	TUE: 7/1	FINAL COMMENTS/FEEDBACK Final Exam (20% of final grade) Movie Commentary Due (10% of final grade)
6	THU: 7/3	NO CLASS