

San José State University
Justice Studies Department
“Penal Politics and Institutions”
JS-104 (section 01 #24952)
Spring 2018

Instructor:	Alessandro De Giorgi
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Office Hours:	MON/WED: 12pm–1pm MON: 7pm–8pm (online)
Class Days/Time:	MON/WED: 3pm – 4:15pm
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 520

COURSE CATALOG 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

This course offers a critical analysis of the punitive turn that has affected US society in the aftermath of the civil rights revolution of the 1960s, resulting in the current mass incarceration crisis. The course traces the long wave of “domestic wars” (e.g., war on crime, war on immigration, war on welfare, war on drugs, etc.) that has swept US society since the early 1970s, turning the United States into the world’s most punitive democracy, as well as recent attempts to address the contemporary penal crisis. Exemplified by draconian penal legislation, militarized urban policing, the resurgence of the death penalty, the rise of mass incarceration, punitive immigration laws, and restrictive welfare policies, the penal experiment of the last four decades has contributed to deepening social inequalities along the lines of race, class, nationality, and gender. Adopting an interdisciplinary lens that combines critical scholarship on punishment and social control, welfare and poverty, radical political economy, critical race theory, urban geography, and immigration control, the course will analyze the emergence of the US carceral state as the consequence of the increasing convergence of penal and social policies towards a neoliberal paradigm for the punitive governance of racialized social inequality.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (SLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

SLO#1: Develop a critical understanding of historical and contemporary changes in U.S. penal policies.

[RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: IN-CLASS TEST]

SLO #2: Analyze punishment as a socially constructed and culturally determined social practice.

[RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: IN-CLASS TEST]

SLO#3: Connect penal policies to broader transformations taking place in the economy, culture, and politics

[RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: MOVIE COMMENTARY]

SLO#4: Analyze the impact of penal policies on existing structures of racial, economic, ethnic, and gender inequality in the U.S.

[RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: FINAL EXAM]

SLO#5: Explain and analyze the relationship between the agencies which make up the penal system in the United States.

[RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: FINAL EXAM]

SLO#6: Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

[RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: MOVIE COMMENTARY]

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1) JS 104 *Reader* (available electronically via email)

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 grade</i>
IN-CLASS TEST (1): Two short-answer questions	2/28/18	(in class)	20%
IN-CLASS TEST (2): Two short-answer questions	5/9/18	(in class)	20%
MOVIE COMMENTARY	5/14/18	(at home)	30%
FINAL EXAM	5/17/18	(in class)	30%

SPECIFICATIONS ON COURSEWORK

1) IN-CLASS TESTS 1-2 (20% + 20% of total grade)

These tests will be done in class, and will consist of short-answer questions covering the readings from the JS 104 *Reader*. Each question will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 10 (for a maximum of 20 points for each quiz). You are kindly requested to come to class with your own blue book on the dates the tests are due (**2/28/18 – 5/9/18**). Please remember that *grammar*, *syntax*, and *structure* are relevant elements of your grade: always proofread your assignments before submitting them.

PLEASE NOTE: during the tests *no notes, books, open laptops, or mobile phones* will be allowed.

2) MOVIE COMMENTARY (30% of total grade)

This will be done at home. Students will write a 5-pages long, double spaced commentary on one of the movies/documentaries watched in class. In their commentary, students are requested to make use of at least three of the readings discussed in class.

PLEASE NOTE: *This assignment must be submitted in class on 5/14/2018*

3) FINAL EXAM (30% of total grade)

The final exam will take place on **5/17/2018 (12:30PM–2:15PM)** and will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions. The test will cover content from the readings assigned throughout the semester. Each correct answer will receive 1 point (wrong answers will receive 0 points), for a maximum of 30 points. PLEASE NOTE: *Students are expected 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/).

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 Penal Politics and Institutions
SPRING 2018

MON-WED: 3pm–4:15pm
MH-520

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
1	W: 1/24/18	SYLLABUS / ASSIGNMENTS / DEADLINES The Sentencing Project, <i>Trends in US Corrections</i>
2	M: 1/29/18 W: 1/31/18	J. Simon, <i>Mass Incarceration: From Social Policy to Social Problem</i> L. Wacquant, <i>Class, Race & Hyperincarceration in Revanchist America</i>
3	M: 2/5/18 W: 2/7/18	<u>Documentary</u> : PBS <i>Locked Up in America</i> (USA 2014) Part 1 <u>Documentary</u> : PBS <i>Locked Up in America</i> (USA 2014) Part 2
4	M: 2/12/18 W: 2/14/18	D. Pager, <i>The Mark of a Criminal Record</i> B. Pettit – B. L. Sykes, <i>Civil Rights Legislation and Legalized Exclusion</i>
5	M: 2/19/18 W: 2/21/18	L. Wacquant, <i>Deadly Symbiosis: When Ghetto and Prison Meet and Mesh</i> M. Alexander, <i>The Lockdown</i>
6	M: 2/26/18 W: 2/28/18	M. Alexander, <i>The Rebirth of Caste</i> IN-CLASS TEST 1: (20% OF TOTAL GRADE)
7	M: 3/5/18 W: 3/7/18	G. Rusche, <i>Labor Market and Penal Sanction</i> A. De Giorgi, <i>Punishment and Political Economy</i>
8	M: 3/12/18 W: 3/14/18	A. De Giorgi, <i>Prisons and Social Structures in Late Capitalist Societies</i> L. Wacquant, <i>Crafting the Neoliberal State</i>
9	M: 3/19/18 W: 3/21/18	<u>Documentary</u> : A. DuVernay, <i>13th</i> (USA 2016) Part 1 <u>Documentary</u> : A. DuVernay, <i>13th</i> (USA 2016) Part 2
10	M: 3/26/18 W: 3/28/18	NO CLASS: SPRING RECESS NO CLASS: SPRING RECESS
11	M: 4/2/18 W: 4/4/18	S.F. Schram et al., <i>Deciding to Discipline</i> K. Gustafson, <i>The Criminalization of Poverty</i>
12	M: 4/9/18 W: 4/11/18	<u>Documentary</u> : A. Wunderlich, <i>The Corridor</i> (USA, 2017) NO CLASS: LIBRARY RESEARCH DAY

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
13	M: 4/16/18	M. Comfort, <i>Papa's House</i>
	W: 4/18/18	M. Comfort, <i>Punishment Beyond the Legal Offender</i>
14	M: 4/23/18	C. Wildeman – B. Western, <i>Incarceration in Fragile Families</i>
	W: 4/25/18	P. Hirschfield, <i>Preparing for Prison?</i>
15	M: 4/30/18	L. Simmons, <i>Profiting from Punishment</i>
	W: 5/2/18	J. Halushka, <i>Work Wisdom</i>
16	M: 5/7/18	A. De Giorgi, <i>Back to Nothing: Prisoner Reentry and Neoliberal Neglect</i>
	W: 5/9/18	IN-CLASS TEST 2: (20% OF TOTAL GRADE)
17	M: 5/14/18	LAST DAY OF CLASS: FEEDBACK / FINAL COMMENTS
		MOVIE COMMENTARY DUE: 30% OF TOTAL GRADE
18	TH: 5/17/18	FINAL EXAM (12:30PM–2:15PM) MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST: 30% OF TOTAL GRADE