

**Sociology of Punishment  
SOC413H1F  
Fall 2019**

**Tuesday 2:00-4:00**

**Room 41 (basement), Sociology Department; 725 Spadina Avenue**

**Professor Candace Kruttschnitt  
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Office Hours: Tuesday 4:00-6:00pm or by appointment  
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**Course Description and Objectives**

This course is designed to give students an intensive overview of sociological penology. It covers some of the major theoretical approaches to punishment and contemporary theoretical innovations; it explores research that was launched in the heyday of prison sociology and developments that have occurred since the mass incarceration movement in the U.S. We also consider how punishment is patterned in different social contexts, how it is gendered and racialized, its broader social effects, and alternatives to imprisonment.

**Required Prerequisites**

1.0 SOC FCE at the 300+ level. Students without this prerequisite will be removed at any time they are discovered.

Recommended Preparation: SOC212H1; SOC313H1; SOC315H1

**Course Web Site**

The course website prepared on the QUERCUS system will contain the syllabus, **all required readings for each week** and course announcements. Students are responsible for the content of all course materials and for checking their official utoronto.ca email address regularly.

### Format and Requirements

This course is a rigorous reading course. You are expected to read and think through the assigned readings for each class and write a one-paragraph summary of each reading and one or two questions based on that reading BEFORE EACH CLASS. Post this on QUERCUS. All students will be expected to participate in the class discussions each week and to come prepared to discuss them.

Final Grades will be based on the following point distribution:

Attendance & Participation	5%
Posted summary of readings & Questions	15%
Class Presentations	20%
Research Question & Paper Outline	10%
Annotated Bibliographies	10%
Popular Depictions of Punishment	10%
Final Paper	30%

#### Class presentations (20% of the Final Grade)

Every student will sign up to lead one of the classes. You should select an area that you are particularly interested. You will work with one or more of your classmates to construct a summary of the important themes that emerge from the assigned readings for the week and you should **include one or more of the recommended readings** or a reading that is cited in one of your assigned readings. You can also include any news worthy or policy developments that you think are relevant to your topic. You and your peer(s) should divide up your presentation of the reading material for the week (including any recommended reading you select) and you should come with a set of questions for the class that arise from your presentation of the material.

#### Research Question and Paper Outline: (10% of the Final Grade): **DUE OCTOBER 8**

The research question and paper outline should be 2 pages. The question is what you are seeking to understand. Remember that sociologists rarely ask questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no.” Rather they are interested in the “how” and in patterns and variations across social groups. Suppose you are interested in prisoners’ health. Here are three interesting questions:

- (1) Does better sanitation improve the health of prisoners?
- (2) Does having poor health in prison increase the likelihood that a prisoner will be depressed?
- (3) What structural and social factors contribute to poor mental health among prisoners?

The first question is a medical question. The second is a medical and psychological question. Only the third question looks at patterns among prisoners and the factors that are related to these patterns. A sociologist might also look at meanings, focusing on what the carceral experience means to inmates and how this might vary based on their social backgrounds.

Your outline should include an introduction with a few sentences that will “hook” the reader and demonstrate how you intend to frame your paper. The body of the outline should guide the reader through what you think will be the main arguments of your paper (including citations here is a good idea). Finally the conclusion of your outline should reiterate your research question, summarize your findings, and consider what might be important questions (based on your findings) for future scholars to consider.

*Popular Depictions of Punishment*: (10% of the Final Grade): to be completed in lieu of the seminar on **October 15** (and turned in before class on October 22).

We will not meet in class this week and you have no assigned readings for this week. However, you are required to invest some time in examining how the media portrays prison OR how prisoners’ themselves characterize their experience.

1. Current Popular Depictions of the prison experience can be found in several TV series: “*Orange is the new Black*,” “*Rectify*,” “*Alcatraz*,” “*Prison Break*,” “*Lock Up*,” “*60 Days In*,” or “*Oz*.” If you select this option, you should watch at least two episodes and then write a 2-page summary and critique. How is the prison experience portrayed? To what extent does it accurately reflect what you know about punishment based on the scholarly works you have read for this course. What is the producer of the show trying to convey in the images of prison that are being conveyed?
2. Popular Depictions of the prison experience can also be found in prisoner autobiographies (some examples are listed below but you are free to pick another one that is not listed). If you choose this option you can select anyone of the following and write a brief report (2 pages). What was the aim of the prisoner in writing this autobiography? How well do his/her depictions of prison life comport with the depictions scholars put forward (i.e., explain in what ways they are similar or different)? What do you learn about prison life by reading this account and how has it affected your views about why and how society punishes its citizens:

- *In the Place of Justice* (2011) by Wilber Rideau. Vintage Books
- *A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival and Coming of Age in Prison* (2010) by Dwayne Betts. Penguin Group
- *A Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela* (1995) by Nelson Mandela. Little, Brown & Co.
- *Mother California: A Story of Redemption Behind Bars* (2009) by Kenneth Hartman. The Steering Committee Press.

- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (1987) by Malcolm X. Ballantine Books
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*Annotated Bibliographies* (10% of the Final Grade): **DUE NOVEMBER 12**

The annotated bibliography is designed to help you get started on the existing research will be important for your paper. Your annotated bibliography should be 3 single-spaced pages and it should (1) identify the source and authors (i.e., a full citation); (2) summarize the authors arguments and the evidence they bring to bear to support their argument (i.e., think critically about the work and do not just reiterate what is in the articles; and (3) show how the works you have selected are related to other works in the area.

*Final Paper:* (30% of the Final Grade): **DUE DECEMBER 3**

Your final research paper should be based on both the work you produced for your paper outline and your annotated bibliography. It should be 15 pages double spaced (12p. Times New Roman font with one inch margins on all sides), excluding your bibliography. It should also include a complete bibliography. Your bibliography should have a complete reference to any sources you cite in your paper. Please follow the format listed here for your citations in the paper and your bibliography: <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html>

Help and Information: For help, tips and advice on writing essays, contact the University of Toronto Writing Centre: [www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/learning](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/learning)

A Note on Plagiarism

*From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters:*

**It shall be an offence for a student knowingly:**

**(d) to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism.**

**Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.**

For helpful instructions on "HOW NOT TO PLAGIARIZE" go to:

[www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/learning](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/learning)

Late Assignments and Medical Excuses

Students who fail to hand in an assignment due to medical illness must provide a written medical excuse within one or two days of the missed test/assignment. In case of an illness, you must supply a **Verification of Student Illness** or Injury

form obtained from the U of T website: [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)  
A doctor's note is also acceptable but MUST contain the start date and anticipated end date of the illness. The form must be placed in a sealed envelope addressed to the instructor and submitted in class or during the instructor's office hours.

**For the final paper, grades will be lowered by 5% per day for every day they are late. If the essay is turned in later than 7 days after it is due, no credit will be given for this assignment.**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit:  
<http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>.

If you have documentation that you are a special needs student, please see me as soon as possible to discuss how best to assist you in the course.

### **COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE**

#### **Sept. 10: Introduction: Thinking about Why We Punish**

Rothman, David J. (1995) "Perfecting the prison. United States 1789-1865" Pp. 100-116 in *The Oxford History of the Prison* ed. by N.Morris & D.J. Rothman. Oxford University Press.

Garland, David (1990) *Punishment & Modern Society. A Study in Social Theory*. University of Chicago Press.

-Chapter 11 "Punishment as a cultural agent: Penalty's role in the creation of culture.

Mears, Daniel P. (2013) "Supermax prisons." *Criminology and Public Policy* 12 (4): 681-712.

Cullen, F.T., Jonson, C.L. & Nagin, D.S. (2011) "Prisons do not reduce recidivism: The high cost of ignoring science." *The Prison Journal* 91 (3): 48S-65S.

#### **Sept. 17: Classic Sociological Theories of Punishment**

Garland, David (1990) *Punishment & Modern Society. A Study in Social Theory*. University of Chicago Press.

-Chapter 2: The work of Emile Durkheim

-Chapter 4: Rushe & Kirchheimer and the Marxist Tradition

-Chapter 6: The work of Michael Foucault

Recommended

- Von Hirsch, A. (1998) "Penal theories" Pp. 659-682 in M.Tonry (ed.) *The Handbook of Crime and Punishment*. Oxford University Press

- Pratt, J.(2002) *Punishment and Civilization*. Sage

### **Sept. 24: The Heyday of Prison Sociology: The Structure of, and Social Relations in, The Big House**

Sparks, Richard, Anthony Bottoms and Will Hay (1996) *Prisons and the Problem of Order*. Oxford: Oxford/Clarendon Studies in Criminology  
-Chapter 2: Social Order: pages 31-62

Simon, J. (2000) "Society of captives in the era of mass incarceration." *Theoretical Criminology* 4 (3): 285-308.

#### Recommended

- Sykes, G.(1958) *The Society of Captives. A Study of a Maximum Security Prison*. Princeton University Press.
- Goffman, E. (1961) *Asylums*. New York: Anchor Books. Pp. ix-43 ("On the characteristics of total institutions")
- Irwin, J. (1970) *The Felon*. Prentice Hall.
- Jacobs, J. B. (1977) *Stateville. The Penitentiary in Mass Society*. University of Chicago Press.

### **Oct. 1: Cultural Variations, and Temporal Changes, in The Big House**

Irwin, J. (1980) *Prisons in Turmoil*. Little Brown & Co.  
-Chapter 2: The Correctional Institution  
-Chapter 3: Division

Gartner, R. & Kruttschnitt C. (2004) "A brief history of doing time: The California Institution for Women in the 1960s and the 1990s. *Law & Society Review* 38 (2): 267-304.

#### Recommended

- Oshinsky, D.M. (1996) *Worse Than Slavery. Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice*. Free Press
- Blue, E. (2012) *Doing Time in the Depression*. New York University Press
- Crewe, B. (2011) "Depth, weight, tightness: Revisiting the pains of imprisonment. *Punishment & Society* 13: 509-529.
- Kennedy, L. (2013) "Longtermers blues: Penal politics, reform and carceral experiences at Angola." *Punishment & Society* 15 (3): 304-322.

**Oct. 8: Theorizing about the Move to Mass Incarceration**  
**\*RESEARCH QUESTION AND PAPER OUTLINE DUE**

Garland, David (2001) *The Culture of Control. Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society*. University of Chicago Press.  
-Chapter 3: The Crisis of Penal Moderism  
-Chapter 7: The New Culture of Crime Control

Tonry, M. (2004) *Thinking About Crime. Sense and Sensibility in American Penal Culture*. Oxford University Press  
-Chapter 2: Why So Many Americans are in Prison

Recommended

- Beckett, K & Western B. (2001) "Governing social marginality" *Punishment & Society* (3): 43-59
- Gottschalk, M. (2005) *The Prison and the Gallows: the Politics of Mass Incarceration in America*. Cambridge University Press.
- Simon, Jonathan (2007) *Governing Through Crime: How the War on Crime Transformed American Democracy and Created a Culture of Fear*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Campbell, Michael C., Matt Vogel & Joshua A. Williams (2015) "Historical contingencies and the evolving importance of race, violent crime and region in explaining mass incarceration in the U.S." *Criminology* 53 (2): 180-203.

**Oct. 15: Popular Depictions of Punishment [no class; work on this assignment]**

**Oct. 22 : The Prison Experience During Mass Incarceration**

Kreager, D.A. & Kruttschnitt, C. (2018) "Inmate society in the era of mass incarceration." *Annual Review of Criminology* 1: 261-283.

Rhodes, L.A. (2004) *Total Confinement. Madness and Reason in the Maximum Security Prison*. University of California Press.  
-Chapter 1: Controlling Troubles

Recommended

- Hassine,V. (2009) *Life Without Parole*. Oxford University Press.
- Skarbek, D. (2011) "Governance and prison gangs." *American Political Science Review* 105 (4): 702-716.
- Haney, C. (2006) *Reforming Punishment*. Washington D.C.: American Psychological Association. Chapters 2 & 3
- McCorkel, J.A. (2013) *Breaking Women: Gender, Race and the New Politics of Imprisonment*. NY: New York University Press.

## **Oct. 29: Comparative Penology – A Global Perspective**

Zimring, F. (2006) "The necessity and value of transnational comparative study: Some preaching from a recent convert." *Criminology & Public Policy* 5(4): 615-622

Doob, A & Webster CM (2006) "Countering punitiveness: Understanding stability in Canada's imprisonment rate." *Law & Society Review* 40 (2): 325-67.

### Recommended

- Whitman, J.Q. (2005) *Harsh Justice: Criminal Punishment and the Widening Divide between America and Europe*. Oxford University Press.
- Tonry, M. (2007) "Determinants of penal politics." Pp. 1-48 in *Crime, Punishment and Politics in Comparative Perspective* ed. By M. Tonry. *Crime and Justice. A Review of Research* Vol. 36. University of Chicago Press.
- Kruttschnitt, Candace and Anja Dirkzwager (2011) "Are there still *Contrasts in Tolerance?* Imprisonment in the Netherlands and England 20 years later." *Punishment and Society* 13 (3): 283-306.
- Lacey, Nicola (2010) "American imprisonment in comparative perspective." *Daedalus* (Summer): 102-114.

## **Nov. 5: Reading Week**

## **Nov. 12: Comparative Penology – Local Variations**

### **\*ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE**

Campbell, M.C. & Schoenfeld H. (2013) "The transformation of America's penal order: A historicized political sociology of punishment." *American Journal of Sociology* 118 (5): 1375-1423

### Recommended

- Goodman, Philip, Joshua Page and Michelle Phelps (2015) "The long struggle: An agnostic perspective on penal development." *Theoretical Criminology* 19 (3): 315-335.
- Lynch, M. (2011) "Mass incarceration: Legal change and local understanding and remediating American penal overindulgence." *Criminology & Public Policy* 10 (3): 637-98.
- Comack, E. and J. Silver (2008) "A Canadian exception to the punitive turn? Community response to policing practices in Winnipeg's inner city." *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 33 (4): 815-844.



## **Nov. 19: Race and Gender**

Goodman, P. (2008) "It's just Black, White or Hispanic': An observational study of racializing moves in California's segregated prison reception Centres." *Law & Society Review* 42 (4): 735-770.

Hefner, M.K. (2018) "Queering prison masculinity: Exploring the organization of gender and sexuality within men's prisons." *Men and Masculinities* 21 (2): 230-253.

Kruttschnitt, Candace and Jeanette Hussemann (2008) "The micropolitics of race and ethnicity in women's prisons in two political contexts." *British Journal of Sociology* 59 (4): 709-727.

### Recommended

- Wacquant, L. (2001) "Deadly symbiosis: When ghetto and prison meet and mesh." *Punishment & Society* 3 (1): 95-135
- Kennedy, L. (2016) "He must learn what being a man is all about': Negotiating the male code at the Louisiana State Penitentiary." *Deviant Behavior* 37 (2): 151-166.
- Alexander, Michelle (2009) *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color-Blindness*. New York: New Press.
- Kruttschnitt, C. (2011) Women's Prisons. Pp. 897-924 in *Oxford Handbook of Crime and Criminal Justice*, ed. By Michael Tonry. Oxford University Press.
- Dolovich, S. (2011) "Strategic segregation in the modern prison." *American Criminal Law Review* 48 (1): 1-110.
- Ricciardelli, Rosemary, Katharina Maier & Kelly Hannah-Moffat (2015) "Strategic masculinities: Vulnerabilities, risk and the production of prison masculinities." *Theoretical Criminology* 19 (4): 491-513.

## **Nov. 26: The Long Reach of Imprisonment**

Comfort, M. (2002) "Papa's house" *Ethnography* 3 (4): 467-99.

Wakefield, S. & Wildeman, C. (2011) "Mass imprisonment and racial disparities in childhood behavioral problems." *Criminology & Public Policy* 10 (3): 793-817.

Pager, D. (2003) "The mark of a criminal record." *American Sociological Review* 5: 937-975.

## Recommended

- Kruttschnitt, C. (2010) "The paradox of women's imprisonment." *Daedalus* 139 (3) Summer: 32-42.
- Sampson, R.J. & Loeffler C. (2010) "Punishment's place: The local concentration of mass incarceration." *Daedalus* 139: 20-31.
- Pettit, B. (2012) *Invisible Men. Mass Incarceration and the Myth of Black Progress.*-Chapter 4: Illusions of Progress.
- Siennick, Sonja E., Eric A. Stewart & Jeremy Staff (2014) "Explaining the association between incarceration and divorce." *Criminology* 52 (3): 371-98.
- Simone, Ispa-Landa & Charles E. Loeffler (2016) "Indefinite punishment and the criminal record: stigma reports among expungement-seekers in Illinois." *Criminology* 54 (3): 387-412.

## Dec. 3: Reintegration

### \*PAPERS DUE

Heinlein, Sabine (2013) *Among Murderers. Life After Prison.* University of California Press. Introduction, Chapters 1, 6 & 7

Maruna, S. (2011) "Re-entry as a role of passage." *Punishment & Society* 13 (1): 2-28.

## Recommended

- Phelps, M. (2011) "Rehabilitation in the punitive era: The gap between rhetoric and reality in U.S. prison programs." *Law & Society Review* 45 (1): 33-68.
- Massoglia, M., Firebaugh, G. and Warner, C. (2012) "Racial variation in the effect of incarceration on neighborhood attainment." *American Sociological Review* 78 (1): 142-165.
- Uggen, C., Manza J., and Thompson, M. (2006) "Citizenship, democracy and the civic reintegration of criminal offenders." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 605: 281-310.
- Morenoff, Jeffrey D. and David J. Harding (2014) "Incarceration, prisoner reentry and communities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 40: 411-429.
- Western, B., Braga, A.A., Davis, J. & Sirois, C. (2015) "Stress and hardship after prison." *American Journal of Sociology* 120 (5): 1512-1547.