

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
(www.soci.ucalgary.ca)

Sociology 625
Seminar on Deviant Behavior: Punishment
Winter 2014

Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot
Time: Monday, 1 pm – 4 pm
Class Room: SS 921
Contact Info: Phone: 403-220-3218 or Email: begibbsv@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: By appointment.

Required Reading:

Christie, Nils. 1981. Limits to Pain. [available on-line:
http://ipsir.uw.edu.pl/UserFiles/File/Katedra_Sociologii_Norm/TEKSTY/NChristieLimitsToPain.pdf]
Foucault, M. 1995. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. (2nd Ed.) New York: Vintage Press.
Garland, D. 1990. *Punishment and Modern Society: A Study in Social Theory*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
Selected readings (please see Blackboard).

Course Description:

Crime is a cultural mainstay in North American society, with considerable discussion centered on what should be done about crime and criminals. While there are a range of possible responses to the commission of crime, a great deal of emphasis is placed on incarceration as the definitive response to criminal wrongdoing. In the face of declining crime rates since the 1990s, North America's (both Canada's and the United States') incarceration rates remain high – higher than most Western democracies. Despite the prevalence of its use, incarceration has been subject to a range of criticisms on a number of fronts. Beyond the costs of incarceration, even more problematic is the effectiveness of imprisonment as a crime deterrent. While some might argue that imprisonment indeed does fight crime by keeping 'dangerous' individuals out of circulation for a specified period, others would argue that the threat of imprisonment does little to deter others from committing crimes, nor does it create law-abiding citizens.

Examining imprisonment and other forms of punishment as a formal response to crime requires that we carefully consider the underlying assumptions of punishment and the expectations that we have of particular forms of punishment. Punishment involves specific assumptions about offenders; assumptions about the impact of circumstances surrounding crimes (for example, the role of alcohol, bystanders, social position, relationship, etc.); and assumptions regarding the consequences or outcomes of particular types of punishment. Importantly, while philosophies of punishment may set the course of punishment in a particular direction, the practical application of punishment may in fact lead us to a much different place. Our primary focus in this class is on the sociological understanding of punishment and the implications of putting (and having put) punishment into practice.

Course Content and Schedule:

Date:	For Discussion:	Reading:
1. January 13	Thinking About Crime and Punishment	Morris 1996. Tonry 2009. Doob & Webster 2006. Tonry 2007.
2. January 20	Introduction to Punishment An overview of issues that will provide a basis for some of our discussions throughout the course: the role of the state and the law in punishment, the nature of man, the nature of society, etc.	Christie: http://ipsir.uw.edu.pl/UserFiles/File/Katedra_Socjologii_Norm/TEKSTY/NChristieLimitsToPain.pdf
3. January 27	Foucault – Torture and Punishment The displacing of the body as the object of punishment; the demise of punishment as spectacle; torture as technique, investigation and punishment; centrality of property; symbolic communication; individualizing correction; technologies of power.	Foucault: Part One and Two
4. February 3	Foucault – Discipline Docile bodies; discipline; spatial distributions; time-tabling; partitioning; maneuvering; exercise; hierarchical observation; normalization; examinations; visibility; documentation; inspection; surveillance; individualization.	Foucault: Part Three
5. February 10	Foucault – Prison (No) alternatives to prison; prison labour; production of delinquency; permanent documentation; condemned to recidivism.	Foucault: Part Four
February 17 No Class	Reading Week	
6. February 24	Sociology and Punishment: Durkheim and Marx.	Garland Chs. 1-5
7. March 3	Sociology and Punishment: Foucault and Weber.	Garland Chs. 6-9 Simon 1996.
8. March 10	Sociology and Punishment: Sensibilities, emotions, civilization, culture, Elias, audience.	Garland Chs. 10-12 Hartnagel & Templeton 2012.
9. March 17	Practical and Theoretical Issues and Implications: Philosophical issues, principles of punishment, just desserts, consequentialism.	Hart 1959. Harcourt 2007. Hershenov 1999. TBD?
10. March 24	Practical and Theoretical Issues and Implications: Retribution, condemnation, capital punishment.	Murphy 1973. Garland 2007. Moss 2012. Davidson 2011. Gerber and Jackson 2013.

11. March 31	Practical and Theoretical Issues and Implications: Sentencing theory, penalties, sentencing guidelines, proportionality.	Tonry 2006. Tonry 2009b. von Hirsch 2007. Roberts 2008.
12. April 7	Practical and Theoretical Issues and Implications: Deterrence, reductivism, rationality, rehabilitation, re-entry, remorse.	TBD [selected from]: Jacobs 2010. Paternoster 2010. Wright et al 2004. Cullen 2012. Bonta 1997. Martel 2010. Munn 2011.
13. April 14	Practical and Theoretical Issues and Implications: Penal reform, penal subjectivities, community, Community sanctions?	Donohue & Moore 2009 Duff 1999. Dzur & Mirchandani 2007. Feeley and Simon 1992.

Evaluation:

Evaluation for this course consists of three components: attendance and class participation; critical papers; and a term paper.

1. **Attendance and class participation:** Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to discuss the readings each week. Although each student is expected to read all the material, students will be assigned responsibility for leading the discussion associated with specific readings or specific chapters. Responsibility for these readings will be determined the first week of class. This component is worth 20% of your final grade.
2. **Critical Papers:** There will be four writing assignments over the course of this semester. You will be asked to answer a question that specifically addresses your readings. These papers will be due the week after they are assigned. The schedule for these papers is as follows:

Date assigned:	Date Due:
January 20	January 27
February 10	February 24
March 10	March 17
April 7	April 14

Each of these four papers is worth 10 marks, with this component of your final grade comprising 40%.

3. **Term Paper:** Term papers will consist of an in-depth examination of a specific punishment-related subject. For example, you may want to examine the notion of proportionality or “dangerousness” with reference to a particular crime or type of crime. Or, you may want to consider the theoretical implications of punishing specific groups – for example, environmentalists or war criminals. Your papers must include a thorough theoretical examination of the topic, as well as, where possible, empirical evidence. Further information with respect to the term papers will be provided in class.

Term papers are due during the exam period (specific date to be determined), and are worth 40% of the final mark.

Important Notes/Regulations:

Course Notes:

1. Grade Reappraisal: Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a reconsidered mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.
2. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
3. Academic Misconduct: Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>
4. Protection of Privacy: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. "If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment."
5. Ethical Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.
6. Deferrals: If possible, please provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.
7. Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at Professional Faculties Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for your other classes at:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
8. Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.
9. Academic Accommodation: Students who require academic accommodation, must register with Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Centre) at MC 452 (or phone 403-220-8237). Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.