

## Special Topics: Penology

Course Times	Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:00am - 10:50am
Room	SS 012
Instructor	Melissa Munn
Contact Information	Office: SS 940, Telephone: 220-5267 Email: smmun@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours	Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 11:00 am - 12:30 pm or by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

- ☉ *Why do we punish?*
- ☉ *Is reliance on the criminal justice system the best approach for managing problems of social order and social conflict?*
- ☉ *How well do State based social controls work to achieve peace and restore social harmony?*
- ☉ *What alternatives to the punitive justice approach have been tried in the past?*
- ☉ *What alternatives are presently available?*
- ☉ *Do they embody the underlying principles of the alternative or have they been absorbed and transformed?*

In this course we will examine theorization in penology, discuss the emergence of the 'new critical criminology' and alternative approaches which have been implemented. Further, we will examine how the prison is currently used in western societies, as well as how our criminal justice system relies upon it to manage not only criminality and deviancy, but also a whole variety of social problems and moral or status offences (moral regulation).

### REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

1. Journal of Prisoners on Prison (2007) Volume 16, Number 2
2. Rives, John. (2007). The perfection of guilt. MiniMocho Press.
3. Course Reader – available from bookstore.

## GRADING SCALE AND COMPOSITION

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

<b>A+</b> 96-100	<b>B+</b> 80 -84	<b>C+</b> 67-69	<b>D+</b> 57-59
<b>A</b> 90-95	<b>B</b> 74-79	<b>C</b> 63-66	<b>D</b> 53-56
<b>A-</b> 85-89	<b>B-</b> 70-73	<b>C-</b> 60-62	<b>D-</b> 50-52 <b>F</b> 0-49

<b>GRADE COMPOSITION</b>	
Midterm Exam	30%
Reaction Papers	20%
Final Examination	30%
Group Discussions	20%

**The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.**

### Reaction Papers

There will be **no term paper** for this course; instead, you will complete **10** reaction papers based on each week's assigned readings and these will be used to calculate 20% of your final grade. Each week you will be required to write a 2 page (**maximum**— typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins) response to 1 of the selected readings (if there are readings from multiple sources, you may choose which one to use. If there are multiple readings from the same source, you must write your paper to address each.)

A *Reaction Paper* must include:

- a brief synthesis of the main arguments made or themes explored
- your reaction to the arguments/themes (do you agree/disagree and why?) and any links you can make to others materials.

These assignments will be collected at the **beginning of class** on Monday. Late assignments (including those handed in at the end of class) will be penalized (**30% per day or portion thereof**) except in EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES which must be approved by the instructor.

### Midterm

This exam will be held on **October 20, 2008** and will cover material from September 8th through to, and including, October 17, 2008. This exam will be short answer format. You will have the full classroom period (50 minutes) to complete the exam.

## Final Exam

This exam will be scheduled during the University's examination period. As this will be an essay question examination students will be expected to integrate material from the entire semester. You will be provided with potential questions on the last day of classes and one of these will appear on the final exam.

## Group Discussion

I believe in participatory learning and as such, during this course, I will be requiring you to be both consumers and producers of knowledge. To this end, every Friday, four students will be selected to lead a discussion on the week's topic; dates and groups for these discussions will be selected by random draw during the second class. Students may draw upon the assigned readings, lectures and other class events in order to guide the discussion. It is suggested that students bring questions to pose to their classmates. 10% of your grade will be based on the substance of your questions to the class and your ability to engage with the material. The other 10% of your grade will be based on your participation during discussions led by your classmates.

## LOGISTICS

### Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all lectures. If work is assigned and missed during one of those, the same policy as those employed for deferred examination will be followed.

### Exam Policies:

You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination 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 physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a "make up" exam as close to the original exam as possible, or to have the test waived and the weight of the missed test be added to that of the second test of the instructor and the student agree to this option. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. **Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam.** Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

### Research Ethics :

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 subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

### **The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation:**

disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

### **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.

### **Academic Accommodation:**

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

### **Deferrals:**

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay 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 physical or emotional problem 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.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer

the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U. of C. Calendar. You can find the forms you need at:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATIONS.pdf>

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Social Sciences Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre.

To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

The table below represents the tentative course schedule. It is subject to change with advance notice given at least one week in advance by the instructor in class and/or on Blackboard. Readings must be completed before the beginning of the week that they are to be discussed.

WEEK OF	TOPIC	READINGS: R=Reader, J=Journal of Prisoners on Prison, G= Perfection of Guilt, B= Blackboard
Sept. 8	Course Introduction: Introducing Penology	G: p. 1-9 J: Bobby (p.16-22), Khaldun (p.23-27)
Sept. 15	A Brief History of Prisons	<b>Travis, Invisible punishment →R</b> G: p.13, 17-19 J: Blau (p.28-29), Odom (p.38-52)
Sept. 22	The Transversals of the Prison Experience	G: p.22-23, 28-31, 40-41, 67, 77 J: Blau (p. 11-15), Bowser (p.31-34), Olson & Kunselman (p.59-76)
Sept. 29	How did we end up with Mass Imprisonment?	Cohen, Master Patterns →R Christie, Crime control as a product →R J: Huckleberry (p. 97-112)
Oct. 6	The Rise of the Prison Industrial Complex & Modernity in Decision Making	CBC - <i>The culture of control</i> →R Gilligan, Punishment and Violence →R
Oct. 15	The Master Pattern Today	<b>REACTION PAPER DUE ON WED 15th</b> Wacquant, "Deadly symbiosis →R
Oct. 20	Assessing Past Failures of Alternatives to Penal Justice	<b>OCTOBER 20 – MIDTERM</b> <b>NO REACTION PAPER THIS WEEK</b>
Oct. 27	Restorative Justice	Elliott, Con Game and restorative justice: →R Latimer, Effectiveness of r. justice →R
Nov. 3	Penal Abolitionism as a Social Movement	Davis, Prison reform or prison abolition? →R Mathiesen, The politics of abolition. →R
Nov. 12	Assessing Past Failures of Alternatives to Penal Justice	<b>REACTION PAPER DUE ON WED. 12<sup>th</sup></b> Bourque, Prison Abolition. →R Sauve, Prison abolition →B
Nov. 17	Assessing Current Alternatives to Penal Justice	Arrigo, Rethinking restorative and community justice→R Fischer, Cannabis Law reform →R
Nov. 24	Introduction to Transformative Justice and Community Solutions	Morris, Transforming Distributive Injustice→R
Dec. 1	Strategy for Achieving Transformative Justice	<b>NO REACTION PAPER THIS WEEK</b>