



# UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2020

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: Seminar on Deviant Behaviour: Punishment			
Course Number	Sociology 625		
Pre/Co-Requisites	Sociology 325		
Instructor Name	Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot	Email	begibbsv@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Please feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please also follow customary email conventions – responses are usually forthcoming within one business day.		
Office Location	SS 856	Office Hours	Wednesday 1-3 pm or by appointment
Telephone No.	403-220-5818		
Class Dates	Mondays		
Class Times	9 – 11:45 am		
Class Location	SS 921		

## Course Description

Crime is a cultural mainstay in many societies, 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 punitive 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, relationships, 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 Objectives/Learning Outcomes

The objectives in this course are to:

1. Understand assumptions about offenders as reflected in various punishment philosophies;
2. Consider how philosophies of punishment may be understood and critiqued sociologically;
3. Identify how particular philosophies of punishment are put into practice; and Identify major issues related to punishment both in theory and in practice.

### Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

Christie, Nils. 1981. Limits to Pain. [available on-line:

[http://ipsir.uw.edu.pl/UserFiles/File/Katedra\\_Sociologii\\_Norm/TEKSTY/NChristieLimitsToPain.pdf](http://ipsir.uw.edu.pl/UserFiles/File/Katedra_Sociologii_Norm/TEKSTY/NChristieLimitsToPain.pdf)]

Foucault, M. 1995. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.) New York: Vintage Books. [ISBN 0-679-75255-2 - check Amazon.com or RedShelf.com]

Garland, D. 1990. *Punishment and Modern Society: A Study in Social Theory*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [ISBN 0-226-28382-8 –check Amazon.com or RedShelf.com]

Selected readings (please see D2L).

### Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Date:	For Discussion:	Reading:
1. January 13	Thinking About Crime and Punishment	Morris 1996 Tonry 2009 Webster and Doob 2016 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: <a href="http://ipsir.uw.edu.pl/UserFiles/File/Katedra_Sociologii_Norm/TEKSTY/NChristieLimitsToPain.pdf">http://ipsir.uw.edu.pl/UserFiles/File/Katedra_Sociologii_Norm/TEKSTY/NChristieLimitsToPain.pdf</a>
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. Christie Book Review DUE	Foucault: Part One and Two
4. February 3	Foucault – Discipline	Foucault: Part Three

	Docile bodies; discipline; spatial distributions; time-tabling; partitioning; maneuvering; exercise; hierarchical observation; normalization; examinations; visibility; documentation; inspection; surveillance; individualization.	
5. February 10	Foucault – Prison (No) alternatives to prison; prison labour; production of delinquency; permanent documentation; condemned to recidivism.	Foucault: Part Four
Reading Week: February 17-21		
6. February 24	Sociology and Punishment: Durkheim and Marx. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Critical Paper #1 DUE</div>	Garland Chs. 1-5
7. March 2	Sociology and Punishment: Foucault and Weber.	Garland Chs. 6-9 Simon 1996
8. March 9	Sociology and Punishment: Sensibilities, emotions, civilization, culture, Elias, audience.	Garland Chs. 10-12 Hartnagel & Templeton 2012 Canton 2015
9. March 16	Practical and Theoretical Issues and Implications: Philosophical issues, principles of punishment, just desserts, consequentialism. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Critical Paper #2 DUE</div>	Hart 1959 Harcourt 2007 Hershenov 1999 Martel 2010
10. March 23	Practical and Theoretical Issues and Implications: Retribution, condemnation, capital punishment.	Garland 2007 Moss 2012 Davidson 2011 Gerber and Jackson 2013
11. March 30	Practical and Theoretical Issues and Implications: Sentencing theory, penalties, sentencing guidelines, proportionality.	Tonry 2006 Tonry 2009b von Hirsch 2007 Roberts 2008
12. April 6	Practical and Theoretical Issues and Implications: Deterrence, rehabilitation, re-entry, penal subjectivities, communities.	Jacobs 2010 Wright et al 2004 Munn 2011 Donohue & Moore 2009 Duff 1999 Dzur & Mirchandani 2007
13. April 13 (no class – holiday)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Critical Paper #3 DUE – April 14</div>	

## Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Evaluation for this course consists of three components: attendance and class participation; critical papers/book review; 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 responsible for leading the discussion associated with specific readings or specific chapters on assigned days. Responsibility for these readings will be determined the first week of class. This component is worth 20% of your final grade.
2. **Book Review and Critical Papers:** There will be four writing assignments due over the course of this semester. The book review will be on the Christie book. For the critical papers, you will be asked to answer a question that specifically addresses your readings. The schedule for these papers is as follows:

<b>Assignment:</b>	<b>Date Due:</b>
Christie Book Review	January 27
Critical paper #1	February 24
Critical paper #2	March 16
Critical paper #3	April 14

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

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.

## Final Exam Information

There is no final exam for this course.

## Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Very good performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Satisfactory performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.

## 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.

## Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **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 can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

## 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

Faculty 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.

### Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

### Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### 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.html>

### Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

**Deferred Term Work Form:** Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at:

[https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/deferred\\_termwork15\\_0.pdf](https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf)

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

### Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need

in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

## Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

## Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

## Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/) or email [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca).

## Student Representation

The Graduate Student Association VP Academic can be contacted at [vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca)

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the GSA, please visit this link:  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/graduate-students-association-gsa-grad.html>

## Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

## Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.