

**SOCIOLOGY OF PUNISHMENT**  
**SOC413H1S**  
**Winter 2014**

**Course Instructor:** Liam Kennedy

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**Class Time/Location:** Tuesday 11-1; SS 1078

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 3:00-5:00 or by appointment

**Office:** Sociology Department room 225A

**Course Description**

This course is designed to give students an overview of some of the key contemporary debates and issues in the sociology of punishment. Our goal in the first half of the term is to try to make sense of recent developments in American penology, specifically the purported decline of rehabilitation and the rise of mass incarceration. As we go along, we will find that the story is not as straightforward as it may initially appear. In the second half of the term our focus narrows, as we explore how punishment is both gendered and racialized. We conclude by looking at the difficulties associated with reintegration and alternatives to imprisonment.

**Required Prerequisites**

The prerequisites to take SOC413 are SOC200H, SOC212H1, and a 300+ level sociology course.

The exclusion is WDW340H1

Recommended preparation is SOC313H1 or SOC315H1. **Students without the prerequisites will be removed** at any time discovered and without notice.

**Course Web Site and Readings**

Blackboard contains both the syllabus and course announcements. With the exception of *The Culture of Control* (which is available in the bookstore), required readings can also be found on Blackboard. Students are responsible for the content of all course materials and for checking their official utoronto.ca email addresses regularly.

**Requirements**

Final grades will be based on the following point distribution:

Attendance & Participation:	20%
Weekly Discussion Board Posts:	25%
Seminar Presentations:	20%
Paper Outline:	10%
Final Paper:	25%

**Attendance & Participation** (20% of the final grade)

Students are expected to attend every class willing and able to participate in class discussion.

**Weekly Discussion Board Posts** (25% of the final grade; 10 x 2.5%)

Starting in week two, students will be required to write weekly discussion posts on Blackboard. You must write a total of ten posts over the course of the term – in other words, you get one week off. Each week, the submissions must be uploaded by Monday at 9am. This is a firm deadline. Please do NOT simply summarize the week's readings. Instead, use these posts as your opportunity to highlight important themes, make connections across readings (as well as to the readings from previous weeks), critique an author's claims, raise questions, and comment on your peers' posts (in a respectful manner of course). I am not expecting these to be polished pieces of writing; rather, I am looking at these as proof that you have read that week's material and thought about it critically.

### **Seminar Presentation/Discussion Facilitation** (20% of the final grade)

Every student will sign up to present on a topic/lead discussion for one class. Depending on final enrolment, you will have to work with one or two of your classmates. Students should begin the presentation component by highlighting the most important points/key themes for that week, but this should not take more than five or ten minutes total. You should then tell us about one or more of the recommended readings. When preparing, you might want to consider asking yourself: what are the debates/questions informing this particular piece of work? What is the author arguing? How is she/he substantiating those claims? How does it fit with the week's required readings? Presenters are also encouraged to incorporate relevant outside material – did you recently come across a news story that fits with the week's topic? Have you been watching *Orange is the New Black* and think one or two scenes help illuminate or expand on the week's material? Then please, by all means, incorporate it into your presentation. After concluding the more formal part of their presentation, students will lead discussion for the remainder of the class. As such, presenters should come with a set of questions prepared (a great place to begin when devising questions will be your classmates' weekly posts on Blackboard).

### **Paper Outline** (10% of the final grade): **DUE February 11<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class**

Your outline should contain the following: title of your paper; research question; a paragraph that introduces your topic (what is the issue and why is it important?) and outlines how you plan to organize your paper; and a list of five scholarly sources. You should provide a brief overview of the main arguments/findings/conclusions of each of these five sources and make it clear why they are relevant to your topic.

Students may write on a topic covered in the course (e.g. prison masculinities, race) or select their own topic (e.g. prisoner health/mental health, collateral consequences of imprisonment). Those who choose the latter should clear that topic with me well in advance of the February 11<sup>th</sup> deadline.

### **Final Paper** (25% of the final grade): **DUE April 1<sup>st</sup> at the beginning of class**

Your final paper will take the form of a literature review. This means that you are NOT starting off with an argument and then selecting sources that support your claims. Instead, students will be required to select current and relevant texts related to their narrow topic of interest, think critically to determine which texts should be used in their final paper, provide a concise and accurate review of the *entire body* of literature, and give a brief overview of outstanding questions and issues waiting to be investigated.

The final paper should be approximately 15 pages (double spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins on all sides). It should also include a complete bibliography that references any source you cite in your paper. Please follow the format listed here for your citations in the paper and your bibliography:

<http://www.calstatela.edu/library/guides/3asa.pdf>

Help and Information: For help, tips and advice on writing essays, contact the University of Toronto Writing Centre: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>

### **Communication Policy**

Please use your official University of Toronto email account and include the course code (SOC413) in the subject line of any correspondence. Also, please keep the communication professional.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties.

Please familiarize yourself with the following:

<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students/academic-integrity-basics/whatismisconducttabular>

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

Do NOT plagiarize. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly. If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, visit the following:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

### **Late Assignments and Medical Excuses**

Those 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 assignment. In case of illness, you must supply a completed **Verification of Student Illness** or Injury form (available at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). The form must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted with your work. Doctor's notes are not acceptable substitutes.

If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). Again, the letter must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted with your work. **For the final paper, you will receive a penalty of 5% per day for every day the paper is late. If it is turned in later than 7 days after it is due, no credit will be given.**

### **Accessibility**

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**

### **January 7: Introduction**

Garland D (1990) "Frameworks of inquiry in the sociology of punishment." *The British Journal of Sociology* 41 (1): 1-15.

### **January 14: From Penal-Welfarism to a Culture of Control?**

Garland D (2001) *The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

### **January 21: Exploring the Rise of Mass Incarceration and the 'New Penology'**

Feeley MM and Simon J (1992) "The new penology: Notes on the emerging strategy of corrections and its implications." *Criminology* 30 (4): 449-474.

Phelps MS (2011) "Rehabilitation in the punitive era: The gap between rhetoric and reality in U.S. prison programs." *Law & Society Review* 45 (1): 33-68.

Tonry M (2004) *Thinking About Crime: Sense and Sensibility in American Penal Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press

-Chapter 2: Why So Many Americans are in Prison

### Recommended:

Cheliotis L (2006) "How iron is the iron cage of the new penology?: The role of human agency in the implementation of criminal justice." *Punishment & Society* 8 (3): 313-340.

Matthews R (2005) "The myth of punitiveness." *Theoretical Criminology* 9 (2): 175-201.

### **January 28: Paradigm Shift?**

Goodman P (2012) "'Another second chance': Rethinking rehabilitation through the lens of California's prison fire camps." *Social Problems* 59 (4): 437-458.

Hannah-Moffat K (2005) "Criminogenic needs and the transformative risk subject: Hybridizations of risk/need in penalty." *Punishment and Society* 7 (1): 29-51.

Robinson G (2008) "Late-modern rehabilitation: The evolution of a penal strategy." *Punishment and Society* 10 (4): 429-445.

#### Recommended:

Hutchinson S (2006) "Countering catastrophic criminology." *Punishment & Society* 8 (4): 443-467.

O'Malley P (1999) "Volatile and contradictory punishment." *Theoretical Criminology* 3 (2): 175-196.

### **February 4: Geographic Variation**

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

Schoenfeld H (2010) "Mass incarceration and the paradox of prison conditions litigation." *Law & Society Review* 44 (3/4): 731-768.

Lynch M (2011) "Mass incarceration, legal change and locale: Understanding and remediating American penal overindulgence." *Criminology & Public Policy* 10 (3): 673-98.

#### Recommended:

Campbell MC (2011) "Politics, prisons, and law enforcement: An examination of the emergence of 'law and order' politics in Texas." *Law & Society Review* 45 (3): 631-665.

### **February 11: The Prison Experience During Mass Incarceration**

#### **NOTE: Paper Outline Due**

Simon J (2000) "The 'Society of Captives' in the era of hyper-incarceration." *Theoretical Criminology* 4 (3): 285-308.

Kennedy L (2013) "'Longterm Blues': penal politics, reform, and carceral experiences at Angola." *Punishment & Society* 15 (3): 304-322.

Glover M (1991) "Prisonomics: A man and a prison." *The Angolite* 16 (4): 29-44.

#### Recommended:

Dennis D (1994) "The living dead." *The Angolite* 19 (5): 20-57.

### **February 18: Reading Week**

## February 25: International Variation – a Spotlight on Canada

Comack E and Silver J (2008) “A Canadian exception to the punitive turn?: Community responses to policing practices in Winnipeg's inner city.” *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 33 (4): 815-844.

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

Moore D and Hannah-Moffat K (2005) “The liberal veil: revisiting Canadian penalty.” pp. 85-100 in J. Pratt, M. Brown, S. Hallsworth, and W. Morrison eds. *The New Punitiveness*. New York: Routledge.

### Recommended:

Mallea P (2010) The Fear Factor: Stephen Harper’s “Tough on Crime” Agenda. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Available at:

<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2010/11/Tough%20on%20Crime.pdf>

## March 4: Gender #1 – Female Offenders

Gartner R and 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.

Hannah-Moffat K (2000) “Prisons that empower: Neo-liberal governance in Canadian women’s prisons.” *British Journal Of Criminology* 40 (3): 510-531.

Richie B (2001) “Challenges incarcerated women face as they return to their communities: Findings from life history interviews.” *Crime and Delinquency* 47 (3): 368-389.

### Recommended:

Hannah-Moffat K (2011) “Sacrosanct or flawed: Risk, accountability and gender-responsive penal politics.” *Current Issues in Criminal Justice* 22 (3): 193-215.

## March 11: Gender #2 – Prison Masculinities

Comack E (2008) *Out There/In Here: Masculinity, Violence, and Prisoning*. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Fernwood Publishing. pp. 14-25, 110-148.

Evans T and Wallace P (2008) “A prison within a prison?: The masculinity narratives of male prisoners.” *Men and Masculinities* 10 (4): 484-507.

Sabo D, Kupers TA and London W eds. (2001) *Prison Masculinities*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. pp. 3-18.

### Recommended:

Bandyopadhyay M (2006) “Competing masculinities in a prison.” *Men and Masculinities* 9 (2): 186-203.

## March 18: Race

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.

Kruttschnitt C and Hussemann J (2008) "Micropolitics of race and ethnicity in women's prisons in two political contexts." *The British Journal of Sociology* 59 (4): 709-728.

Wacquant L (2001) "Deadly symbiosis: When ghetto and prison meet and mesh." *Punishment & Society* 3 (1): 95-133.

Recommended:

Heimer K, Johnson K, Lang J, Rengifo A, and Stemen D (2012) "Race and women's imprisonment: Poverty, African American presence, and social welfare." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 28 (2): 219-244.

**March 25: Reintegration**

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

Pager D (2003) "The mark of a criminal record," *American Journal of Sociology* 108 (5): 937-975.

Travis J and Petersilia J (2001) "Reentry reconsidered: A new look at an old question." *Crime and Delinquency* 47 (3): 291-313.

Recommended:

Hallet M (2012) "Reentry to what? Theorizing prisoner reentry in the jobless future." *Critical Criminology* 20 (3): 213-228.

**April 1: Alternatives to Imprisonment?**

Clark S (2011) "The Nunavut Court of Justice: An example of challenges and alternatives for communities and for the administration of justice." *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* 53(3): 343-370.

Loader I (2009) "Ice cream and incarceration: On appetites for security and punishment." *Punishment & Society* 11 (2): 241-257.

Simon J (2010) "Do these prisons make me look fat?: Moderating the USA's consumption of punishment." *Theoretical Criminology* 14 (3): 257-272.

Recommended:

Loader I (2010) "For penal moderation: Notes towards a public philosophy of punishment." *Theoretical Criminology* 14 (3): 349-367.