**SOCIAL CONTROL - SOC326H1S (Online Course)**

University of Toronto – St. George Campus  
Summer 2021, July - August  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:10 pm - 9 pm

**Instructor:** Natália Bittencourt Otto (she/her)  
**E-mail:** nataliaotto@mail.utoronto.ca  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

- All course material will be available through Quercus  
- Lectures will be pre-recorded  
- Synchronous sessions will be on Zoom (TUE and THUR), 6-8 pm

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I was born a settler in the traditional land of the Guaraní peoples, in the region currently known as Rio Grande do Sul, in the south of Brazil. For the past four years, I have lived as an immigrant in the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River, where the University of Toronto is located. This territory was the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. I am grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine how Western society has gone about controlling people and practices considered ‘deviant’ throughout history. Engaging with foundational theoretical texts, ethnographical and archival work, literature, and film, we will study processes of criminalization and punishment as colonial, race-making, and gendered historical projects – from settler colonialism, the Atlantic Slave trade, early 20th-century urbanization, and the Cold War, to contemporary policies of mass incarceration, policing, and the War on Drugs. We will also uncover how people across time have not been passive victims of state control, but instead have actively resisted criminalization and created possibilities for survival and joy beyond the margins of the law.

**PREREQUISITES**

The prerequisites to take this course is SOC201H1, SOC202H1, SOC204H1 and 1.0 credits of SOC251H1, SOC252H1, SOC254H1. Students without these requirements will be removed from the course without notice.

**TEACHING METHODS & PHILOSOPHY**

Hi and welcome to SOC326! Let’s start with the inevitable: I know many of you have faced multiple challenges this past year. Maybe some of you are essential workers. Maybe some are caring for loved ones at home. Maybe some are anxious about their mobility through national borders. Maybe some of you are grieving -- for loved ones and the world. I am, too. I wrote this syllabus during a six-month-long lockdown in Brazil,
my home country and one of the most severely affected places by the pandemic. I know you have worked very hard to continue your education in less-than-ideal conditions. I built this course thinking about all of that. I hope this course becomes a space for creativity, intellectual curiosity, and community building for us. Please feel free to reach out to me with any concerns or suggestions. Let’s get through this summer together.

In this course, we will approach learning as a form of collaborative storytelling. Together, we will work on a story about social control in Western society. We will analyze how institutions and states have attempted to control, constrain, criminalize, and punish different groups of people and practices throughout time. Dealing with stories of crime and violence can be challenging. In academic and non-academic narratives alike, criminalized people are often dehumanized, portrayed as evil foes or helpless victims. In this course, we will connect the dots between macro and micro social forces, between structural processes and people’s everyday lives. We will do so by engaging with archival documents, ethnographies, media, and film.

A note on content warnings: We will engage with challenging materials. We will often encounter descriptions of violence and terror deployed against criminalized people. I ask that we all come to class in a spirit of respect and solidarity to all those affected by the violence we will be uncovering. I will provide content warnings (with page locations) to readings and materials with descriptions of extreme violence and sexual assault. Students who do not wish to engage with these materials will not be penalized. You do not need to let me know whether you decided to skip those excerpts, it is entirely your decision. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you encounter any material that you feel can be troublesome to you or your classmates.

**LEARNING GOALS**

Throughout this course, you will:

- Trace the history of social control in Western societies from its origins to contemporary policies
- Identify the discursive logics that sustain and legitimate different forms of social control
- Recognize how social control practices and discourses are shaped by gender, race, class, nationality, and sexuality
- Grasp how different forms of social control affect the everyday lives of criminalized people
- Examine how criminalized people are portrayed in media and academic scholarship

The course is organized to allow you to develop various skills:

- You will develop your critical reading and writing skills, engaging with a range of theoretical texts and connecting sociological concepts to empirical realities
- You will develop your archival eye, examining historical documents and analyzing how discourses about social control are (re)produced across time
- You will develop your ethnographical eye, analyzing how historical processes shape the everyday lives of characters in the film *Moonlight* (2016)

**CLASS STRUCTURE**

- Each class will be structured as a Module. Modules will be composed of readings, videos, and lectures. Lectures will be pre-recorded and available to you 24 hours before our synchronous meetings. **The lecture accounts for 1 hour of our 3-hour class.**
During our synchronous sessions, we will have two moments:

First, we will have a discussion or activity about the day’s module, from 6 pm to 7 pm EST.

BREAKOUT GROUPS

Then, you will be divided into three groups from 7 pm to 8 pm EST. In your group, you will work on your individual media analysis project with the help of the Teaching Team. Your project submissions will be individual, but you can and should discuss your ideas with your group.

You can choose which group you will be in based on your preferred topic for your media analysis project: Gender and Sexuality; Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration; or Substance Use and Illegal Markets.

You can assign yourself a group on Quercus under “People”. Each group must have approximately 10 students so spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

EVALUATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 22 (25%)</td>
<td>Midterm Assignment: Documentary Reflection</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 27 (15%)</td>
<td>Media Analysis Project Submission 1 (can be done during synchronous sessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 5 (15%)</td>
<td>Media Analysis Project Submission 2 (can be done during synchronous sessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 12 (25%)</td>
<td>Final Assignment: Film Analysis</td>
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<td>Submit anytime, the final date is August 5 (20%) Reading Reflection</td>
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MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT: DOCUMENTARY REFLECTION (25%), due July 22 before midnight EST

You will submit an essay analyzing the documentary *In Jesus’ Name: Shattering the Silence of St. Anne’s Residential School*. Drawing from the readings from Modules 2, 3, 4, and the film, you should discuss: How can we understand the Canadian Residential School System in light of the history of social control we have been uncovering in this course? What are the continuities and ruptures between original processes of land expropriation and modern processes of disciplining Indigenous lives? What are the consequences of these experiences for Indigenous people – and how have they resisted these forms of social control?

Essay length: 1000-1500 words. More instructions will be posted on Quercus.

If you do not feel comfortable watching this documentary and would like to have another option for this assignment, please feel free to reach out to the Teaching Team. Your request you remain private.
MEDIA ANALYSIS PROJECT (15% + 15%), due July 27 and August 5 before midnight EST

- You will work on this assignment during synchronous meetings in a breakout room with the help of the Teaching Team.
- You will analyze two media articles of your choice, one from 1900-1970 and another from 1980-2020. You will use news articles from MacLean's magazine’s online archive. You are expected to: (i) analyze discourses about social control and deviance in these articles and (ii) examine how and why people and practices are framed as deviant and how their control is legitimized in both punitive eras. You are also expected to address the following questions: How have discourses about deviant people and practices changed over time? How have ideas about gender, sexuality, race, nationality, and class shaped discourses about social control, then and now?
- In your analysis, you should refer to the course’s readings and lectures.
- Each submission should have around 800 words. More instructions will be provided on Quercus.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT: FILM ANALYSIS (25%), due August 12 before midnight EST

- In your essay, you will analyze the experiences of characters in the film Moonlight (2016). We will have a synchronous meeting to discuss the film before the assignment is due.
- I ask you to consider: What forms of social control, both official (schools, police, prison) and unofficial (peers, family) are deployed in Chiron’s life? What are the consequences of these forms of social control for his life? How do his gender, race, sexuality, and class play into how he is criminalized? How do the War on Drugs and its consequences (illegal markets, policing, mass incarceration, substance use) affect the characters? How do the characters resist the multiple attempts made to control and categorize them? Tell me their story considering all that you have learned about social control in this course.
- You should refer to specific scenes and dialogues and connect them to the readings and lectures.
- Essay length: 1000-1500 words. More instructions will be posted on Quercus.

READING REFLECTION (20%), due at any date, final deadline is August 5 before midnight EST

- You will submit an essay connecting one of the Theoretical Foundation modules to one empirical study from the syllabus. You will explore how theoretical concepts help us understand these empirical realities. You should follow the detailed course outline for guiding questions. Options of topics for connections are:
  - Module 1 to Module 2
  - Module 3 to Module 5
  - Module 7 to Modules 8, 9, 10, or 11
- Essay length: 1000-1500 words. More instructions will be posted on Quercus.

COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

- Weekly Newsletter: I will send a weekly newsletter every Monday reminding you of our week’s schedule, providing links to course materials, and sharing news and information relevant to the course. If you have any announcements for your classmates, please contact me so I can include them. If you
are still reading this, send your favorite .gif to my e-mail to get a 0.1 bonus for reading the syllabus. Shush, don't tell anyone.

- **Questions:** We will have a discussion board for questions about the course on Quercus. Please consider posting your questions there, if you feel comfortable. The answer might be helpful to your classmates as well.

- **E-mail policy:** Feel free to contact me for any questions or personal requests regarding illness, accommodations, grades, or any concerns you might have. I will try to answer your e-mails within 24 hours (except weekends). Please write our course code, SOC326, in the e-mail subject. If you don't get a response in 48 hours, feel free to write a follow-up e-mail to remind me.

- **Equity and respect:** In this course, we will strive to build an environment in which all feel included, safe, and respected. This is our collective responsibility. As a course instructor, I will not condone behavior that undermines the dignity, safety, and well-being of any student in this course. Sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, or xenophobic language will not be tolerated. In your course communications, please use gender-inclusive language and respect your peers' pronouns. If you believe that the instructor, the TAs, or any person in this course is engaging in language or practices that make you or your classmates feel unsafe or excluded, please reach out to the Teaching Team.

- **Accessibility:** Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Accessibility Services as soon as possible. I will work with you to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course.

- **Recording and sharing lectures and meetings:** This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely after each session. You are permitted to download session videos and materials for your academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose. **You may not share or live stream any materials or recordings from this course in the public domain or social media, in its entirety, or small excerpts.** Please note that this is a very important policy to maintain the safety and privacy of the teaching team and your fellow students. Warning: I am addicted to social media and I will find out if the course ends up on #ZoomUniversity on TikTok.

**DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE**

This course outline provides guiding questions for the readings, films, and lectures.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 6</th>
<th>INTRODUCTIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In this first lecture, I will share my expectations for the course and go over the syllabus. In our first synchronous meeting, we will do a Syllabus Q&amp;A. Please introduce yourself on our discussion board!</td>
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<tr>
<th>July 8</th>
<th>MODULE 1</th>
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<td></td>
<td>The Origins of Social Control I: Theoretical Foundations</td>
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<td>In this module, we will examine the origins of social control in capitalist societies. What is the role of social control in capitalist societies? What is the relationship between social control,</td>
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crime, punishment, and labour? How was social control enacted in the early formations of capitalist societies?

**Readings & Materials:**


**Synchronous Activity:**

- Discussion (6 pm-8 pm)

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### July 13

**MODULE 2**  
**The Origins of Social Control II: Expropriation of Land and Labour**

Following the theoretical perspectives laid out in the previous module, we will explore how social control relates to the expropriation of land and labour. We will examine two historical processes that are foundational to all forms of social control in the Americas: settler colonialism and the Atlantic slave trade. How has the "afterlife of slavery" affected how social control is deployed against Black people in North America? How do social control and state violence relate to the expropriation of Indigenous land?

**Readings & Materials:**


**Synchronous Activity:**

- Discussion (6 pm-8 pm)

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### July 15

**MODULE 3**  
**Modernity & Social Control I: Theoretical Foundations**

In this module, we turn to social control in the 20th century. We will discuss the classic book *Discipline and Punish* by Michel Foucault. Foucault’s main argument is that, in the modern age, social control is enacted through “power-knowledge techniques”, that is, systems of classification and institutions (medicine, psychiatry, psychoanalysis, law, sociology, criminology) that aim at classifying and “normalizing” people’s bodies and behaviors. Social control is no longer about exclusion, destruction, and expropriation – it becomes a matter of engineering a productive subject through institutional interventions. Can you think of how you and people you know are made to shape your body, practices, and subjectivity to fit into a socially accepted “mold”? What are the institutions that exert this power over you?
Readings & Materials:
- Foucault, Michel. 1979. Excerpts from *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*.

Synchronous Activity:
- Discussion: Collective analysis of newspaper article *The Most Heartbreaking Job in Canada* (6 pm-8 pm)

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July 20

**MODULE 4**

**Modernity & Social Control II: Modern Colonial Institutions**
In this module, we will explore how modern techniques of discipline described by Foucault merge with colonialism in the Canadian Residential School System. We will uncover how Indigenous children’s bodies, practices, and culture were categorized and controlled to adhere to a standard of white citizenship. How can we understand the Residential School System in light of the history of social control we have been uncovering in this course? What are the continuities and ruptures between original processes of land expropriation and modern processes of disciplining Indigenous lives? What are the consequences of these experiences for Indigenous people – and how have they resisted these forms of social control?

Readings & Materials:
- Susan G. Enberg Productions Inc. 2017. *In Jesus’ Name: Shattering the Silence of St. Anne’s Residential School* [documentary, 42 minutes]

Synchronous Activity:
- Discussion (6 pm-7 pm)
- Breakout Room 1: Data collection for Submission 1 (7 pm-8 pm)

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July 22

**Documentary Reflection due before midnight EST**

**MODULE 5**

**Modernity & Social Control III: Policing the New City**
In this module, we will uncover how the power-knowledge techniques described by Foucault were deployed to control, categorize, and normalize the lives of Black women in the newly formed Black neighborhoods after the abolition of slavery. How did the bearers of power-knowledge techniques – sociologists, criminologists, social workers, police officers – framed Black neighborhoods and their residents as “deviant”? How did people living in those neighborhoods resist these categorizations? Pay attention to Hartman’s method, “critical fabulation”. How does this method of “breathing life into the archive” allows us to see criminalized people in a different light? What aspects of their lives do traditional sociological and criminological accounts leave out?
**Readings & Materials:**

**Synchronous Activity:**
- Discussion (6 pm-7 pm)
- Breakout Room 2: Data analysis for Submission 1 (7 pm-8 pm)

**July 27**

**M O D U L E 6**

**Modernity & Social Control IV: Globalizing Control During the Cold War**

In this module, we will explore the meanings attributed to “gangs” through a historical account of the Mara gangs in Guatemala. We will uncover how transnational processes of social control of political dissents (namely, the counterinsurgency war against communism led by the U.S. during the Cold War) led to the proliferation of civil wars in Latin America and, as a consequence, the formations of gangs in the wake of authoritarian governments and neoliberal economic policies. The case of the Maras will illustrate something that we have been trying to unearth throughout this course: the connections between macro-social processes and people's everyday lives. How does this historical and transnational approach differ from common sociological and media narratives about “gangs”?

**Readings & Materials:**

**Synchronous Activity:**
- Discussion (6 pm-7 pm)
- Breakout Room 3: Editing and submitting Submission 1 (7 pm-8 pm)

**July 29**

**M O D U L E 7**

**The Punitive Turn I: Theoretical Foundations**

In this module, we turn to the historical period known as the "the punitive turn", which begins in the 1980s and extends to the current time. This era is characterized by the rise of tough-on-crime policies, incarceration, surveillance, and policing in the Americas and the UK. The main characteristic of the punitive turn is a move away from attempts to “reform”, “discipline” or “normalize” criminalized people (as in modern penality) and towards processes of social exclusion of deviant people. Wacquant asks: How do race and class play into the production of "irredeemable" groups of people? Garland asks: How do anxieties produced by late capitalism feed into a generalized fear of crime, and how does that fear lead to the production of a “culture of control”?
Readings & Materials:


Synchronous Activity:

- Discussion (6 pm-7 pm)
- Breakout Room 4: Data collection for Submission 2 (7 pm-8 pm)

**August 3**

**Last day to drop the course: August 2nd**

**MODULE 8**

The Punitive Turn II: The War on Drugs

In this module, we will explore a historical development that is crucial to the establishment of the punitive turn across the Americas: the international efforts to control the cocaine economy, or the “War on Drugs”. We will uncover how the War on Drugs led to the formation of illegal markets and explore the contradictory experiences – of violence and wealth, opportunity and loss – of people working in these markets, both in the Global North and the Global South.

Readings & Materials:


Synchronous Activity:

- Discussion (6 pm-7 pm)
- Breakout Room 5: Data analysis for Submission 2 (7 pm-8 pm)

**August 5**

**Last day to submit Reading Reflection**

**Second submission of Media Analysis Project due before midnight EST**

**MODULE 9**

The Punitive Turn III: Living in the Era of Mass Incarceration

In this module, we will explore the lived experiences of racialized young men with policing and criminalization in the era of mass incarceration. How has the social control of crime expanded throughout multiple institutions during the punitive turn? What are the consequences, material and psychological, for Black and Latinx youth who are subjected to these forms of control and exclusion?

Readings & Materials:

### August 10

**MODULE 10**

**The Punitive Turn IV: Neoliberal Control: From Discipline to Risk and Back Again**

In this module, mirroring our previous discussion about “discipline” in the Residential School System, we will uncover how racialized youth are policed and controlled in contemporary schools. How have previous attempts at disciplining become attempts at the exclusion of racialized youth from institutions? What are the continuities and ruptures in the practices of social control in educational spaces? Can you think of ways in which social control is deployed in the educational institutions you have studied, including the university? We will also return to discussions about land expropriation and consider how contemporary forms of social control enact ownership over territories in Canada through the policing of Indigenous social movements. From expropriation, to discipline, to risk-management, what are the continuities and ruptures in the forms of social control of Indigenous people in Canada?

**Readings & Materials:**
- Sibblis, Camisha. “Progressive Discipline, Regressive Education: An Examination of Racism in the Processes and Spaces of School Exclusion” in D. G. J. Sefa and M. McDermott (Eds.), *Politics of Anti-racism Education: In Search of Strategies for Transformative Learning*.

**Synchronous Activity:**
- Discussion about film *Moonlight* (6 pm-8 pm)

### August 12

**Film Analysis due before midnight EST**

**MODULE 11**

**Abolitionism: Past, Present, Future**

In our last module, we will discuss prison and police abolitionism. We will contextualize prison abolitionism in the history of the Civil Rights Movement, reading a classic text by Angela Davis. We will also investigate the continuities and ruptures between original abolitionist thought and current abolitionist demands in the wake of Black Lives Matter. Considering all we have learned about the history of social control in this course, let us ask: Why is prison and police abolitionism a central demand of Black Liberation movements?

**Readings & Materials:**

Synchronous Activity:
- Discussion (6 pm-8 pm)

LATE POLICY

- Raincheck Policy: I will grant one 48h-extension per student, no questions asked. You can use this raincheck once during the term for any assignment, except for the Final Assignment due August 12. When you upload your late assignment to Quercus, leave a comment saying: “I’m using the raincheck policy”.
- Other extension requests must be submitted to me via e-mail. In case of illness, you must supply a completed Declaration of Absence on ACORN.
- Absence Declaration: The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor’s note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. Please use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation in the University. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to your faculty or campus. In addition to this declaration, you are responsible for contacting me to request the academic consideration you are seeking. You will be notified by the University if this policy changes.
- Late Assignments: Late term papers without a valid excuse will be deducted 2% per day, including weekends and holidays. We will not be accepting work submitted over a week late. Late discussion posts will not be accepted.

REGRADE POLICY

The teaching team will do our best to grade fairly and consistently. If issues with your grade arise and you wish to appeal, please follow this procedure:

- Regrade requests for term work may be submitted to the person who marked the work for re-evaluation. The student must submit (1) the original piece of work and (2) a written explanation detailing why they believe the work was unfairly/incorrectly marked. If the student is not satisfied with this re-evaluation, they may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the work was not marked by the instructor (e.g., was marked by a TA). In those instances, where the instructor was not the one who marked the work, the student must now submit to the instructor (1) the original piece of work, (2) the written reasons as to why they believe the work was unfairly/incorrectly marked, and (3) communications from the original marker as to why no change in the mark was made. If a remarking is granted by an instructor, the student must accept the resulting mark as the new mark, whether it goes up or down or remains the same.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- Be sure that you have familiarized yourself with the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters before submitting assignments or sitting for exams. The University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviors that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

- You can find advice on "How Not to Plagiarize" and other advice on documentation format and methods of integrating sources at http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources.

- **Turnitin.** Students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely to detect plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website. Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0%) unless a student instead provides, along with their assignment, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submitted was truly their own.