

Punishment and Society (SOC 3660)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Kaufman
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Office Hours: Monday 3:15-5:15 PM
Wednesday 3:15-5:15 PM

Course Information

Credits: 3
Pre-requisite: SOC 2600
Meeting time: 2-2:55 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Classroom: Bentley Hall 304

Required Readings: One book is required:

Eason, John M. 2017. *Big House on the Prairie: Rise of the Rural Ghetto and Prison Proliferation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

This book will be on reserve at Alden Library. The remaining reading assignments will be available digitally on our course site on Blackboard.

Course Description: This class examines several aspects of punishment: its definition, forms, rationale, and social significance. We will first recognize the historical roots of these practices in the United States and Western Europe, and then we will focus on contemporary punishment practices in the United States. As we consider patterns in punishment from a sociological standpoint, we will investigate the forms and social conditions in which punishment occurs. We will identify the justifications for these responses to law-breaking. As we examine contemporary punishment and mass incarceration practices, we will investigate the societal implications of punishment for heavily punished populations as well as for economic mobility, health, and democracy.

Learning outcomes: After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Define punishment
- Understand the components of criminal laws
- Explain historical developments leading to the formation of modern forms of punishment
- Identify the forms of contemporary punishment
- Recognize internal variations within states in the U.S.
- Define mass incarceration
- Recognize major populations experiencing punishment in the U.S. today
- Understand major rationales for punishment and their limitations
- Recognize critiques of punishment practices
- Understand the relevance of social forces and contexts in shaping punishment practices
- Apply concepts to examples of punishment.

Grading:

The breakdown of the grade will be:

Item	Due date	Portion of course grade	Description
In-class participation	Ongoing	20%	The participation grade reflects the quality of engagement in activities in class, including in-class discussion, “expert” days, games, activities, written responses, and occasional pop quizzes.
Response papers	9/26 10/15 10/31 11/16 12/10	40% (8% each)	The purpose of the papers is for students to apply an understanding of concepts and empirical trends from assigned reading and lecture. Prof. Kaufman will provide the prompt in class about a week before each due date.
Midterm exam	10/8	15%	The exams will test how well students understand crucial concepts and core ideas presented both in readings and in lectures and discussions. The emphasis will be on ideas that Prof. Kaufman will put on the term sheet to be distributed leading up to the exam. The exams will have a combination of multiple choice and written identification questions. One page (two-sided) of written notes will be allowed at the exams.
Final exam	12/10	25%	

Responsibilities and Policies:

Student responsibilities: Students are expected to be familiar with Ohio University policies and procedures. (See the Code of Conduct here: <http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/>). If a situation arises that prevents the successful completion of this course, it is each student's responsibility to formally withdraw from this course.

Accessibility: Any student who suspects s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the class instructor privately to discuss the student's specific needs and provide written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If the student is not yet registered as a student with a disability, s/he should contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services in Baker at (740) 593-2620. It is best to request these accommodations at the beginning so there is ample time to make the accommodations.

Academic integrity: Academic integrity an expectation in all OU classes and applies in this class. Put simply, passing off another person's work or ideas as your own will not be permitted. The Ohio University Student Code of Conduct prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty, including: cheating, plagiarism, forgery, and collusion. Students who fail to observe these standards are subject to disciplinary action: I will reduce the grade of the assignment and report the incident to the student's advisor and the Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility. Students may appeal academic sanctions through the grade appeal process.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Students who miss class should seek notes and materials from peers. When absence is due to an emergency, documented medical condition or illness, authorized university activity, or military service/training, and the reason is documented, the student and instructor can work together to accommodate the absence.

Sensitivity: Many of the topics we will discuss will be sensitive. Our discussions require an environment of mutual respect so that our classroom feels safe for everyone. There may be times when you hear opinions that you do not agree with, in the service of discussing complicated social issues. However, please notify me if you feel uncomfortable with the way we are going about discussions or addressing the course content.

Syllabus changes: As your instructor, I retain the right to make changes based on the timeline of the class, feedback from learners, or logistical issues. I will inform you as soon as a change is made.

Use of electronic devices: There is no cell phone use in class. Tablets and laptops are allowed only to pull up assigned readings and take notes. There will be points deducted from the participation grade when devices are used in a way that distracts the user and others.

Note about slides: It is my policy not to distribute power point slides from lecture. Please ask after class, in office hours, or via email if you wish to review the slides.

Grading Policy:

Appealing a grade: Please take 24 hours before speaking to the instructor about a graded assignment or exam score.

Late assignments: Papers are due at the beginning of class in paper form **and** on Safe Assign via Blackboard. Work is considered late when it does not meet these specifications. For every day late, I will deduct 10% of the possible points for that assignment. Exceptions can be granted in the case of a documented emergency.

Final grades: The final grade for the semester is not negotiable, except in the case of a calculation error.

Grading: Percentages on assignments and exams will translate to the following grades:

95-100	A	74-76	C
90-94	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
77-79	C+	59 or below	F

Course Calendar

Day	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Monday	8/27/2018	Course overview	Read syllabus
What is punishment?			
Wednesday	8/29/2018	Is it punishment?	<p>Associated Press. 2012. "Anders Behring Breivik Complains of 'Inhumane Conditions' in Prison." <i>The Guardian</i>, November 9. (2 pp.)</p> <p>Koran, Mario. 2013. "Lost Signals, Disconnected Lives." <i>WisconsinWatch.org</i>, March. (11 pp.)</p> <p>"Criminalizing Pregnancy: Policing Pregnant Women Who Use Drugs in the USA." Amnesty International. (6 pp.)</p> <p>Pearce, Matt, Cindy Carcamo, and Maya Srikrishnan. 2014. "Arizona Killer takes Two Hours to Die, Fueling Lethal-Injection Debate." <i>Los Angeles Times</i>, July 23. (3 pp.)</p> <p>Oppel, Jr., Richard. 2018. "Nebraska Plans First Execution in 21 Years. Not So Fast, Drug Company Says." <i>New York Times</i>, August 8. (3 pp.)</p>
Friday	8/31/2018	Defining punishment	<p>Walker, Nigel. 1991. Selection from <i>Why Punish?</i> Oxford: Oxford University Press. (4 pp.)</p> <p>Garland, David. 1992. Selection from <i>Punishment and Society: A Study in Social Theory</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (6 pp.)</p> <p>Garcia, Vanessa. 2012. "History of Rape." <i>The Social History of Crime and Punishment in America</i>. Edited by Wilbur Miller. (7 pp.)</p>
<i>no class 9/3/2018</i>			
Wednesday	9/5/2018	"Prison in Twelve Landscapes"	
Friday	9/7/2018	Components of criminal laws	<p>"An Act to Confer Civil Rights on Freedmen, and for Other Purposes" (excerpt). 1865. <i>Laws of the State of Mississippi</i>. (5 pp.)</p> <p>"Mississippi Freedpeople to the Governor of Mississippi." 1865. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. (3 pp.)</p>
<i>no class 9/10/2018; complete take-home quiz</i>			
Forms of punishment			

Wednesday	9/12/2018	Corporal punishments in the colonial era	Navin, John J. 2015. "Intimidation, Violence and Race in British America." <i>The Historian</i> 77(3): 464-497. (33 pp.) Turn in take-home quiz
Friday	9/14/2018	The development of the prison	Foucault, Michel. 1977. <i>Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison</i> . New York: Random House. Pp. 3-17 (top). (14 pp.)
Monday	9/17/2018	The penitentiary: The Pennsylvania model	Dickens, Charles. 1842. "Philadelphia and its Solitary Prison." Selection from <i>American Notes</i> . (15 pp.)
<i>no class 9/19/2018</i>			
Friday	9/21/2018	The penitentiary: The New York model	Graber, Jennifer. 2011. "The Furnace at Sing Sing, 1828-1839." Selection from <i>Furnace of Affliction: Prisons and Religion in Antebellum America</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. (31 pp.)
Monday	9/24/2018	Convict lease and the chain gang (1); "Slavery by Another Name"	LeFlouria, Talitha. 2015. Selections from <i>Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. Read p. 1 and pp. 34-50 in the pdf. (16 pp.)
Wednesday	9/26/2018	Convict lease and the chain gang (2); "Slavery by Another Name"	Writing assignment 1 due
Friday	9/28/2018	Overview of prisons, jails and community supervision in the US today	Explore Vera Institute of Justice interactive map showing incarceration rates by place over time
Monday	10/1/2018	Monetary sanctions	Beckett, Katherine and Alexis Harris. Selection from "On cash and Conviction: Monetary Sanctions as Misguided Policy." <i>Criminology & Public Policy</i> 10(3). (13 pp.)
Wednesday	10/3/2018	Review game	
<i>no class 10/5/18</i>			
Monday	10/8/2018	Midterm exam	
Why punish?			
Wednesday	10/10/2018	Discuss exam results	
Friday	10/12/2018	Retribution	Durkheim, Emile. 1983 reprint. "Crime and Punishment." Pp. 59-75 in <i>Durkheim and the Law</i> , edited by Steven Lukes and Andrew Scull. New York: St. Martin's Press. (16 pp.)
Monday	10/15/2018	Deterrence	Wright, Valerie. 2010. "Deterrence in Criminal Justice: Evaluating Certainty vs. Severity of Punishment." The Sentencing Project, November. (12 pp.) Writing assignment 2 due

Wednesday	10/17/2018	Rehabilitation	Gail Caputo, 2014. "Blackout." Pp. 45-85 in <i>A Halfway House for Women: Oppression and Resistance</i> . Boston: Northeastern University Press.
Friday	10/19/2018	Incapacitation: Professor Reiter virtual class visit	Reiter, Keramet. 2012. "Statement of Keramet A. Reiter, J.D., Ph.D. Before the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights." (6 pp.) Hager, Eli. 2016. "My Life in the Supermax." <i>The Marshall Project and Vice</i> . January 8. (6 pp.)
Monday	10/22/2018	Restorative justice	The Chrysalis Collective. "Beautiful, Difficult, Powerful: Ending Sexual Assault through Transformative Justice." (9 pp.) Listen to "Dirty Water," the episode in the podcast <i>Ear Hustle</i> (36 min.)
Who is punished in the contemporary US?			
Wednesday	10/24/2018	Men and punishment	Herman-Stahl, Mindy, Marni L. Kan, and Tasseli McKay. 2008. "Characteristics of Incarcerated Fathers." Selection from a report prepared for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (7 pp.)
Friday	10/26/2018	Women and punishment	Haney, Lynne. 2013. "Motherhood as Punishment: The Case of Parenting in Prison." <i>Signs</i> 39(1): 105-130. (25 pp.)
Monday	10/29/2018	African Americans and punishment	Human Rights Watch. 2008. "Targeting Blacks: Drug Law Enforcement and Race in the United States." Pp. 9-29. (20 pp.)
Wednesday	10/31/2018	Older people and punishment; Transgender people and punishment	Fellner, Jamie. 2013. "Graying Prisoners." <i>New York Times</i> , August 18. (3 pp.) Lambda Legal fact sheet: "Transgender Prisoners in Crisis." (4 pp.) Writing assignment 3 due
Friday	11/2/2018	Juveniles and punishment; "Girlhood"	Rios, Victor. 2011. "The Coupling of Criminal Justice and Community Institutions. Selection from <i>Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys</i> . New York: NYU Press. (20 pp.)
Monday	11/5/2018	Finish "Girlhood"	
Wednesday	11/7/2018	Disability and punishment	Vallas, Rebecca. 2016. "Disabled Behind Bars: The Mass Incarceration of People with Disabilities in America's Jails and Prisons." Center for American Progress. (34 pp.)
Explanations of prison proliferation			
Friday	11/9/2018	Prison proliferation (1)	Eason Chapter 1 and 2
<i>no class 11/12/18</i>			

Wednesday	11/14/2018	Prison proliferation (2)	Eason Chapter 3
Friday	11/16/2018	International Justice - Professor David Crane class visit	Explore the website for the Special Court for Sierra Leone Writing assignment 4 due
Monday	11/19/2018	Prison proliferation (3)	Eason Chapter 4
<i>no class 11/21/18 and 11/23/18</i>			
Societal consequences of prison proliferation and mass incarceration			
Monday	11/26/2018	Prison proliferation (4)	Eason Chapter 6
Wednesday	11/28/2018	Prison proliferation (5)	Eason Chapters 7 and 8
Friday	11/30/2018	Democracy	Chung, Jean. 2018. "Felony Disenfranchisement: A Primer." The Sentencing Project. (6 pp.)
Monday	12/3/2018	Public health	Wildeman, Christopher and Emily Wang. 2017. Mass incarceration, public health, and widening inequality in the USA. <i>The Lancet</i> : 389(10077): 1464-1474. (10 pp.)
Wednesday	12/5/2018	Alternatives?	Dubler, Joshua and Vincent Lloyd. 2018. "Think prison abolition in America is impossible? It once felt inevitable." <i>The Guardian</i> , May 19. (7 pp.) Rebecca Burns. 2014. "The Unbearable Whiteness of Legalization." <i>In These Times</i> . February 19. (2-3 pp.)
Friday	12/7/2018	Review game	

12/10 at 12:20 PM: **Final Exam. Writing assignment 5 due.**

The lectures, classroom activities, and all materials associated with this class and developed by the instructor are copyrighted by Dr. Nicole Kaufman on August 24, 2018.