The prison, that darkest region in the apparatus of justice, is the place where the power to punish, which no longer dares to manifest itself openly, silently organizes a field . . . in which punishment will be able to function openly as treatment.

Michel Foucault, *Discipline & Punishment*

From capital punishment to three-strikes-and-you're out to the highest imprisonment rates in the Western world by a factor of five . . . The United States has a punishment system that no one would knowingly have built from the ground up.

Michael Tonry, *Thinking about Crime*

Prison as a place of confinement, punishment and transformation orients this survey of adult corrections in the U. S. While our focus is on contemporary dynamics, we’ll begin with a consideration of the history and ideologies that have shaped the carceral structures and operations. The course critically examines the concept of prison as a total institution or panopticon and its implications as a method of social control. What are the objectives of imprisonment: retribution, incapacitation, deterrence or rehabilitation? How may we understand inmates’ as well as correctional officers’ subcultures as both adaptations to and resistance against totalizing institutions? What are the collateral “pains of punishment” imposed on their families and communities outside the bars? What have been the implications of mass incarceration for democracy and the economy in the U. S.? Other topics may include popular representations of prison life, women in prisons, the prison-industrial complex, the racialization of prisons, and prison as a culture of death.  

*Dist: SOC  WCult: NA*
Important Note:
The nature of our subject, prisons, will necessarily entail exposure to and examination of extremely graphic language and behavior that may be highly offensive. Students with concerns regarding the suitability of this course for themselves should consult with the instructor before the end of the first week of term.

Books Available for Purchase at the Dartmouth Bookstore and Wheelock Books


Additional Required Readings and Resources

Optional


Assigned articles, book chapters, video clips and exhibitions are located in the “ASSIGNED READINGS” folder on Blackboard. The PDFs and links for the assigned readings for each week are filed together in a folder. Also see the list of prison-related films on reserve in Jones Media Center.

Developing the habit of routinely reading a national newspaper (e.g. *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *L. A. Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*) is an invaluable for effectively contributing to class discussions and for enhancing your cultural capital.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

5% Participation

Much of the work of this course will involve our collective examination and discussion of secondary as well as primary sources -- print, visual and recorded. Students are expected to attend all class sessions as well as any special sessions, to complete reading assignments in a timely fashion and to participate meaningfully in every class meeting. A sign-in sheet will be distributed periodically throughout the term.

20% 2 Short Exercises in the Sociological Imagination

The Virtual Prison Tour is mandatory, but the second exercise may selected from several options.

**Virtual Prison Tour** This course begins with travelers’ observations of the prisons and correctional system in U.S. during the 1800s. This exercise option affords you an opportunity to become more knowledgeable about contemporary corrections in a designated state or nation by taking a virtual tour of its prisons. There will be several prompts and questions to direct your observations and commentary. Details for this assignment will be posted on Blackboard (see Prison Travel Assignment).

(1) Elective short exercise options

The various options and details for this assignment will be posted on Blackboard (see Prison Issues Assignment)

35% In-Class Midterm Exam

The in-class midterm examination will consist of an essay question and may include identifications or short answers. It will cover readings, lectures, discussions, videos, guest presentation, and any required special events.

40% Final Project

The completion of a research paper or a take-home, final examination.
**Honor Principle** Academic work is simultaneously a collaborative and an independent enterprise. Consulting others and using their ideas, findings, and interpretations are integral parts of intellectual inquiry. The laborious, critical and creative work of developing one's own understandings is equally important. In this course, you will have opportunities to engage in both endeavors. Therefore it is essential that you maintain the integrity of each. Class members are encouraged to discuss readings, lectures and other course materials with one another. However in-class and take-home examinations, exercise reports, research papers and/or other assignments must be your own independent work, unless otherwise indicated. By putting your name on an assignment that you turn in, you are indicating to me that the work is your original work.

You should familiarize yourself with Dartmouth College's *Academic Honor Principle* regarding honesty in completing all course examinations, research papers, and exercises (see online “Academic Honor” under the Registrar Regulations, plus the Standards of Conduct regulations on computing resources and library privileges). This Principle commits each of us to individual responsibility and fairness in all course work; and prohibits cheating on exams, fabricating research, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, purchasing papers, submitting fraudulent documents, engaging in computing abuses and forging signatures.

**Acknowledgements & Citations** Learning when and how to acknowledge appropriately the ideas, words and work of others is a critical skill for academic as well as other professional fields. Pay close attention to your citations of the intellectual and creative ideas, writings, images and products of others (including other class members, readings, films, government reports, art work, lectures, websites, etc.). Always consult *Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgment*, use links to various citation references posted on Canvas’ “External Links.” You might consider purchasing a comprehensive reference book on acknowledging sources. Several useful style guides include *The Chicago Manual of Style*, *APA Style Guide*, and Diana Hacker’s *Research and Documentation Online*. You should also feel free to consult me before submitting work that you think might be improperly cited.

**Students’ Religious Observance** Class members may wish to take part in one or more of the religious observances that occur during this academic term. However, some activities may conflict with your participation in this course. Before the end of the second week of the term, please send me an email detailing the occasion, date and the specific course responsibility that may be affected. I will use this information to determine any appropriate accommodations.

**Missed Classes** As responsible adults, class members should notify the instructor in writing of any anticipated absences. In the event that you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for getting the seminar discussion notes for that class from another student. I will not make my lecture/discussion notes available. I trust that members of the class will be cooperative in sharing their notes, realizing that you also may be in a similar position one day. Repeated absences, without documented evidence of illness or family emergency, will adversely affect your grade.

**Submission and Return of Assignments** The submission of response memos, assignments and papers is expected on the indicated due date and time. Requests for extensions beyond the submission date should be made at least 24 hours prior to the due date. Please note that grades on non-approved late submissions may be penalized. Graded work will be returned in the sealed envelopes. Course assignments, examinations and papers may not be submitted by email, postal mail or fax (unless otherwise instructed and with prior approval).

**Make-up Exam** Students with legitimate reasons may be entitled to make-up the midterm examination. However, such arrangements are only available for students who inform me at least 48 hours prior to the original exam date.

**Note for Students who Speak English as a Second Language** Students who speak English as a second language are encouraged to meet with the professor during the first week of the term to discuss any academic accommodations that may be of assistance to you.

**Note for Students with Disabilities and Special Concerns** Students with learning or other disabilities as well as chronic health conditions that may disrupt your studies are encouraged to meet with the professor during the first two weeks of the term to discuss any academic accommodations that may be of assistance to you. *All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Accessibility Coordinator, Dick’s House staff or other college officials may be consulted.*

**Electronic Devices** Cell and smart phones, iPods, MP3s, Bluetooths, tablets, etc. must be turned-off and put away during our seminar sessions. Laptop computers and notepads should only be used for note taking or researching information pertinent to that class discussion. In a small class, web browsing, texting, handling email, updating Facebook or working on non-course related matters are especially distracting for others and not conducive to your own learning. The repeated disregard of this policy will lead to a reduction in your course participation grade.
**Email Policy**  Course assignments, examinations and research papers may not be submitted by email, snail mail or fax. Please note that I typically read and answer my email occasionally each day during the work week (i.e. Mon. – Fri.), but not necessarily according to any schedule. As a rule, I am not accessible via email during the weekends.

**Classroom Etiquette**  We will cover some complex and controversial subjects. Understandably, disagreement and debate are welcome and integral parts of the learning process. Please extend respect to all members of the class in terms of your verbal and nonverbal communications, listen attentively to their questions and comments as you would the lectures, and offer your informed observations and criticisms in a constructive manner.

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**SCHEDULE OF COURSE READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS & EVENTS**

Class topics and reading assignments are subject to change

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**PART I**

**THE PENITENTIARY AS A MODERN MARVEL**

**Mon Mar. 30**

Course Overview

**Wed April 1**

**An Historical Overview: The Penitentiary as a Modern Marvel**


Gustave de Beaumont & Alexis de Tocqueville report On the Penitentiary System in the United States and Its Application in France, 1833 (on Canvas)

Charles Dickens, "Philadelphia, and its Solitary Prison," Chap. 7 in American Notes 1842 (on Canvas)

**Browse:**

Eastern State Penitentiary - Examine "Explore" and "Learn" menus on the site (on Canvas)

Gallery of Sing Sing Prison Photos, Ossing, NY by Karl Josker (on Canvas)

http://images.frompo.com/w/Sing-Sing-prison


**Fri April 3**

**Controlling Populations of ‘The Worst Kind’: Women**


**Supplemental Materials:**

Photographs of Colorado State Prison 1883-1900, view images of female inmates (on Canvas)
Mon April 6  Denied Penitence: Punishment Worse than Slavery  
Tritten, Larry. 2006. “Early Indian Prisoners of ”The Rock,” Native Peoples v19 n4 July/August: 68, 70 (on Canvas)  

Supplemental Materials:  
John and Ruby Lomax. 1939. Southern States Recording Trip. Under “Field notes” see entries for Ramsey State Farm, Huntsville, TX; Cummins State Farm in AK; Parchman in MS; Raiford in FL Under “Photographic Prints” search for “African American convicts”  

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PART II  THE AMERICAN WAY: PRISONS, PRISON, PRISON, PRISONS . . .  

Wed April 8  Lock ‘Em Up: The American Way of Social Control  
"Mass Incarceration in America,” The American Prospect, January/February 2011 (on Canvas)  

Supplemental Materials:  
View: "US: A Nation of Inmates?" Inside Story Americas,” Al Jazeera Television (on Canvas)  

Fri April 10  So, You Think You Know About Prison: Popular (Mis) Representations of Corrections  
or  

Supplemental Materials  
View: Philippine Prisoners Performing Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” (link on canvas)  
View: The Angola Prison Rodeo video (link on Canvas)  

Watch an episode:  
MSNBC Lock-Up Series, on Saturdays 9:00 & 10:00 pm  
MSNBC Lock-Up Aboard, Sundays 9:00 & 10:00 pm  
SPIKE Jail: http://www.spike.com/shows/jail  
Netflix Orange is the New Black  
National Geographic Lockdown (online): http://www.natgeotv.com/ca/lockdown
**Mon April 13**  
**Hiding ‘Em Away: The Surprising Invisibility of Mass Imprisonment**  


**Supplemental Materials**  
“Freedom of Information Act Covering Prisons” Society of Professional Journalists (on Canvas)

**PART III  INMATE CULTURE, STAFF CULTURE: STATUS AND SURVIVAL**

**Wed April 15**  
**Life in A Totalizing Society**  


**Fri April 17**  
**Doing Time: Identity, Survival and Prisonization**  


**Supplemental Materials:**  

Jackson, Bruce. “Photo Essay: Texas Death Row and the Cummins Prison Farm in Arkansas,” pp. 112-129 (on Canvas)

**Mon April 20**  
**Doing Time, Doing Gender: Becoming a Prison Guard**  

**Supplemental Resources**  
*Browse:* Maricopa County Sheriff Website [Under General menu, view mugshots, gallery, etc.] (on Canvas)

**Wed April 22**  
**Compromise, Co-optation and Conflict: Keepers and the Kept**  
Britton, *At Work in the Iron Cage*, Chaps. 4 -7  

**Supplemental Resources**  
National Public Radio. 2001. All Things Considered Prison Diaries -- “Serving 9 to 5: Correctional Officers' Diary” (on Canvas)
Fri April 24  Doing Gender: Prisons, Masculinities and the Code


Mon April 27  Doing Prison Masculinities: Negotiating Status and Dominance


Supplemental Materials:
The Angolite, the inmates’ newspaper from Angola State Penitentiary in LA (on Canvas)
The Cell-Door, an Internet magazine by inmates (on Canvas)

Wed April 29  Doing Gender: Prison Femininity in Domesticity and Punishment


Supplemental Resources
“Cellblock Visions: Prison Art.” Web site compiled by Phyllis Kornfeld (on Canvas)
Art Gallery and Interviews on Women and Prison: A Site for Resistance website (on Canvas)

Fri May 1  Doing Genders, Doing Sexuality: Prison Femininity, Sexuality and Coercion


Mon May 4  IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Wed May 6  A Part of the Penalty: Sexual Abuse in Prisons


View Video Clips and/or Read several Prisoners’ Statements, Case Histories and Voices: “No Escape: Male Rape in U.S. Prisons.” 2001. Human Rights Watch (on Canvas)

Part IV THE HOUSE OF THE LIVING DEAD

Fri May 8 A Very Dangerous Place to Be . . . Mental Anguish, Insanity and the Supermax

Mon May 11 Abandon All Hope: The Insanity of Total Control
Rhodes, Total Confinement, Chaps. 5 & 6

Supplemental Materials

Wed May 13 No new readings

Fri May 15 The Shadow of the House of Death: Old-Age and Death Row


Supplemental Materials

Old Behind Bars: The Aging Prison Population in the United States," Executive Summary (on Canvas)

Part V COLLATERAL PROFITS & COSTS: Economic & Political Beneficiaries of Mass Incarceration

Mon May 18 Punishing Prisoner's Families


View: Prison Visiting Room Portraits, An Interview with Alyse Emdur

Wed May 20 Prisoners of Love: Intimacy & Trouble
Comfort, Doing Time Together, Chaps. 4-6

Fri May 22  Profiting as We Build . . . More Prisons as Economic Recovery?
   Readings TBA (on Blackboard)


   Supplemental Materials:
   Prison Profits, PBS 24 min. (on Canvas)
   CNBC. "Billions Behind Bars - Inside America's Prison Industry Parts 1, 2, and 3" (on Canvas)

Mon May 25  MEMORIAL DAY - NO CLASS MEETING

Wed. May 27  Going Home: Does Prison Rehabilitate?

   Supplemental Materials:
   Stevenson, Bryan. "We need to talk about an injustice," TED Talks. Posted March 2012 (on Canvas)

Fri May 29  Ready for Life on the Outside?
   Petersilia, When Prisoners Come Home, Chaps. 4 - 7

   “I’ve Served My Time:” Making It on the Outside
   Petersilia, When Prisoners Come Home, Chaps. 8 - 10

   Supplemental Materials:

Decarceration: Reform or Abolition?

Mon June 1  Last Day of classes

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**MONDAY, JUNE 8**

**FINAL PROJECT DUE**
Due no later than 6:00 p. m.

Please deposit a hard copy at either my Sociology Department mailbox in 111 Silsby or in the box outside my office door, 109 Silsby.

*Submissions via email, Blackboard, postal service or FedEx will not be accepted, and thus graded without prior approval.*