

Sociology 242
Historical Sociology of Punishment

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MW, 3-4:20pm
Olin 203

The aims of this course are two-fold. It examines, firstly, the character of punishment, and of rationales for punishing, in a variety of different historical circumstances. Cases are drawn from Puritan New England and early modern Europe, 18th and 19th century France and Britain, the American South, the Soviet Gulag, and the recent period in the US and Britain. Comparisons among such disparate cases are meant to suggest broad developmental patterns in punishing, and to throw up more specific queries about the connections between culture, social structure and penal strategies. The case materials should offer, second, a historical perspective on several contemporary issues and themes--the appropriateness of retribution, the declining concern for rehabilitation, the rationales and uses of the death penalty, and the scope of criminal responsibility.

Texts to purchase (available at the Bookstore):

Erikson, Kai, Wayward Puritans
Garland, David, The Culture of Control
Foucault, Michel, Discipline and Punish
Morris, N., and Rothman, D., eds., Oxford History of the Prison
Tonry, Michael, Malign Neglect

The required texts are also on reserve in Stevenson Library (note that the Morris and Rothman volume is housed in the reference section). Other required readings (*) are available on electronic reserve.

Students are expected to attend class regularly, participate in class discussions, prepare weekly memos, and make oral presentations to the class. In addition each student will write a short essay (4-5 pages) and prepare a research report (12-15 pages) on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Course outline and required readings:

1 Sept. Presentation of the course.

6 Sept. *Garland, "Frameworks of Inquiry"; Peters, "Prison before the Prison: The Ancient and Medieval Worlds," in Morris and Rothman, pp. 3-43; Malinowski, Crime and Custom in Savage Society (handout)

I. Puritan New England

8, 13 Sept. Erikson, Wayward Puritans

15 Sept. *Mead, "Psychology of Punitive Justice"

II. The transformation of punishment from the early modern to the modern period

20 Sept. Spierenburg, "The Body and the State: Early Modern Europe," in Morris and Rothman, pp. 44-70; Foucault, Discipline and Punish, pp. 3-16, 32-54

22, 29 Sept. *Hay, "Property, Authority and the Criminal Law"; McGowen, "The Well-Ordered Prison: England, 1780-1865," in Morris and Rothman, pp. 71-99

first essay due 29 Sept.

4 Oct. *Silver, A., "The Demand for Order in Civil Society"; *Ignatieff, "Prisons, the State, and the Labor Market"

6 Oct. Foucault, Discipline and Punish, selections; *Weiss, "Humanitarianism, labour exploitation, or social control?"; *Ignatieff, "State, Civil Society and Total Institutions"

13 Oct. **midterm examination**

III. The American South

18, 20 Oct. *Ayers, "The Crisis of the New South" and "The Hurt that Honor Feels"; *Adamson, "Punishment after Slavery"; *Oshinsky, "American Siberia" and "Parchman Farm"; *Sellin, Slavery and the Penal System, pp. 133-176, 192-196

IV. The Soviet Gulag

25, 27 Oct. *Toker, "Soviet Labor Camps"; *Bardach, "Welcome to Kolyma" and "The Isolator"; Neier, "Confining Dissent: The Political Prison," in Morris and Rothman, pp. 350-380

V. Current trends, controversies, debates

1, 3 Nov. **contemporary prisons and crime control** Morris, “The Contemporary Prison,” in Morris and Rothman, pp. 202-231; Garland, Culture of Control, pp. 1-26, 53-73

8, 10 Nov. **race, poverty, crime and punishment** Tonry, Malign Neglect, selections; *Chambliss, “Policing the Ghetto Underclass”

15, 17 Nov. **the death penalty in the USA** *Zimring, F., Capital Punishment and the American Agenda, selections; *Stinchcombe, A., Crime and Punishment--Changing Attitudes in America, selections; Bedau, H. (ed.), The Death Penalty in America: Current Controversies (recommended)

research projects due 1 Dec

1, 6,
8 Dec. student reports

13, 15 Dec. **the future?** Garland, Culture of Control, pp. 168-205

concluding session