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Fall 9-1-2021

### SOCI 491.01: Special Topics - Sociology of Punishment

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#### Recommended Citation

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**ST: SOCI 491 (Section 01): Sociology of Punishment**  
University of Montana  
*Fall 2021*

**Course Details**

**Class Location:** University Hall 210  
**Meeting Time:** M/W/F 2:00 - 2:50 p.m.  
**Credit Hours:** 3

**Instructor Details**

**Instructor:** James Tuttle, Ph.D.  
**Email:** james.tuttle@mso.umt.edu  
**Office:** Social Sciences 307  
**Office Hours:** M/W/F 12:30-1:30 p.m. (Zoom)  
**Phone:** (406) 243-5912

**Teaching Assistant:** Christine Moore  
**Email:** christine2.moore@umconnect.umt.edu

**Course Description**

This “special topics” course examines the ‘Sociology of Punishment.’ While the primary focus of the course is explaining variation in formal social control, we will begin by addressing deviance, informal sanctions, and the efficacy of punishment. After addressing these issues, we will progress to an examination of punishment through the ‘lens’ of major sociological theories. During these discussions, we will critically examine why the form(s) of punishment, the amount of punishment, and the groups receiving punishment vary across societal contexts. Finally, we will address the causes of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century trends in incarceration rates.

**Learning Goals and Objectives**

By the end of the course, each student should be able to:

- assess the efficacy of punishment.
- explain major sociological perspectives on punishment.
- critically examine historical and cross-national variation in punishment.
- analyze the impact of societal context on the types and amount of sanctions imposed.

**Course Expectations**

Class attendance is key for success in this course. This type of participation requires students to be prepared for class discussion each day by reading assigned course materials by the week that they are assigned (Monday of each week). During class periods, students are expected to be attentive and take notes. Use of laptop computers, cell phones, tablets, and other electronic devices is not allowed during lectures/discussions unless explicitly cleared by the instructor. Students are also expected to interact with each other and their instructor in a respectful manner, both in person and through electronic communications. Classroom disruptions, including not following course policies, may result in expulsion from a particular class session or the entire course.

### **Classroom Policy on COVID-19**

Students are expected to help to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic within the classroom. Within the classroom, students are required to wear face coverings (over their nose and mouth) in an effort to prevent asymptomatic spread of the virus. Students must not attend class when they are feeling ill and must immediately inform their instructor or officials at the University if they have contracted the COVID-19 coronavirus. Additional classroom expectations, aligning with University guidelines, will also be enforced.

### **Required Textbooks**

**Title:** *Punishment and Modern Society: A Study in Social Theory*

**Authors:** David Garland

**Year:** 1990

**Publisher:** The University of Chicago Press

**ISBN-13:** 978-0226283821

**Title:** *The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society*

**Authors:** David Garland

**Year:** 2001

**Publisher:** The University of Chicago Press

**ISBN-13:** 978-0226283845

### **Grading**

Grades are rounded to nearest whole number. Letter Grades will be calculated using the following grading scale:

A: 93 or higher

A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89

B: 84-86

B-: 80-83

C+: 77-79

C: 74-76

C-: 70-73

D+: 67-69

D: 64-66

D-: 60-63

F: 59 and lower

### **Earning Your Grade:**

Each student can earn up to 100 points in this course. The final grade is computed by dividing the number of points earned by 100. The point breakdown is as follows:

- **Final Exam:** 35 points (35%)
- **Mid-Term Exam:** 25 points (25%)
- **Class Participation:** 15 points (15%)
- **Theory Reflection and Application:** 15 points (15%)
- **CLG Presentations:** 10 points (10%)

**Final Exam (35 Points Total):**

The final exam is a cumulative exam covering all course materials (assigned readings, lessons from assignments, lectures, etc.). The exam may include both close-ended (true/false, multiple-choice, etc.) as well as open-ended (essay) questions.

**Mid-Term Exam (25 Points Total):**

The mid-term exam is a cumulative exam covering all course materials (assigned readings, lessons from assignments, lectures, etc.) to that point of the class (near the mid-term). The exam may include both close-ended (true/false, multiple-choice, etc.) as well as open-ended (essay) questions.

**Class Participation (15 Points Total):**

Class participation will be primarily assessed through attendance. Other elements that are assessed in the class participation grade include: participating in class discussions, completing in-class assignments, and complying with classroom policies. A chronically tardy, absent, or disruptive student should not expect to earn class participation points.

**Theory Reflection and Application (15 Points Total):**

In this assignment, each student will assess the theoretical explanations of classical sociological perspectives and apply these perspectives to a contemporary issue in punishment and social control. More details on this assignment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

**CLG Presentations (10 Points Total):**

CLG (“Cooperative Learning Group”) assignments require you to work as a team to present a PowerPoint to the class on a current issue in punishment and social control. More details on this assignment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

**A Note on Late Submissions or Incomplete Assignments:**

If a student misses an assignment and does not present the appropriate paperwork for the absence to be excused, he or she receives a ‘0’ for the assignment. Late work is accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

**University Policies****Excused Absence Policy:**

Under some circumstances, students will be excused from missing class and assignments. When a student is absent from class and/or misses an assignment due to an excused absence, it does not count against the student’s grade. Missed assignments due to an excused absence are granted an extension (at the discretion of the instructor).

Students requesting an excused absence need to inform the instructor as soon as possible, preferably before the class that is missed. Excused absences include illness, injury, family emergency, religious observance, cultural/ceremonial events, participation in a University sponsored activity, military service, or mandatory public service. Students must gain clearance from the instructor before the class that is missed or provide documentation after missing class. More about the University Policy on class attendance and absences can be found here: <https://catalog.umd.edu/academics/policies-procedures/>

### **University of Montana's Cultural Leave Policy:**

“Cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet the student's customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. To receive an authorized absence for a cultural, religious or ceremonial event the student or their advisor (proxy) must submit a formal written request to the instructor. This must include a brief description (with inclusive dates) of the cultural event or ceremony and the importance of the student's attendance or participation. Authorization for the absence is subject to approval by the instructor. Appeals may be made to the Chair, Dean or Provost. The excused absence or leave may not exceed five academic calendar days (not including weekends or holidays). Students remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of the instructor.”

### **Accessibility Services for Students:**

“The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.”

### **Food Pantry Program**

“UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is open on Tuesdays from 12 to 5 PM and Fridays from 10 AM to 5 PM. The pantry is located in UC 119 (in the former ASUM Childcare offices). Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, email [umpantry@mso.umt.edu](mailto:umpantry@mso.umt.edu), visit the UM Food Pantry Website ([www.umt.edu/pantry](http://www.umt.edu/pantry)) or contact the pantry on social media (@pantryUm on twitter, @UMPantry on Facebook, um\_pantry on Instagram).”

### **ASUM Renter Center**

“The Renter Center has compiled a list of resources (<https://medium.com/griz-renter-blog>) for UM students at risk of homelessness or food insecurity. Students can schedule an appointment with Renter Center staff to discuss their situation and receive information, support, and referrals.”

### **TRiO Student Support Services**

“TRiO serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students or have documented disabilities. TRiO services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring.

Students can check their eligibility ([www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php](http://www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php)) for TRiO services online. If you are comfortable, please come see members of the teaching team. We will do our best to help connect you with additional resources.”

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in this class. By submitting an assignment in this course, students are acknowledging that the work that they have submitted is their own work and

that they have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance in completing the assignment. Plagiarism is not accepted and will be punished by failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion. Please review the 'Student Conduct Code' (<http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php>) for further information on student responsibilities in maintaining academic honesty.

### **Course Schedule**

Please note that required readings and the dates of assignments are subject to change. I reserve the right to make changes to the course materials as well as the class activities as I see fit to facilitate achievement of the course objectives. The required materials are to be read by the beginning of the week that they appear on the schedule.

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#### **Week 1: Course Introduction (August 30 - September 3)**

##### ***Required Reading Materials:***

- Course Syllabus
- "The Sociology of Deviance: An Introduction" by Erich Goode (Chapter 1 of *The Handbook of Deviance*, edited by Erich Goode)

##### ***Class Activities:***

August 30: Introduction to the Course  
September 1: What is Social Deviance?  
September 3: Deviance and Social Control

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#### **Week 2: Does Punishment Work? (September 6-10)**

##### ***Required Reading Materials:***

- "The Purpose of Criminal Punishment" by Cyndi Banks (Chapter 5 of *Criminal Justice Ethics: Theory and Practice*)

##### ***Class Activities:***

September 6: **No Class – Labor Day**  
September 8: Conventional Perspectives on Punishment  
September 10: Does Punishment Work?

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#### **Week 3: Durkheim's Theory of Punishment (September 13-17)**

##### ***Required Reading Materials:***

- *Punishment and Modern Society*: (Chapter 2) "Punishment and Social Solidarity: The Work of Emile Durkheim" (pp. 23-46)

##### ***Suggested Reading:***

- *Punishment and Modern Society*: (Chapter 3) "Punishment and the Construction of Authority: A Reworking of Durkheimian Themes" (pp. 47-82)

##### ***Class Activities:***

September 13: A Brief History of Punishment  
September 15: Durkheim's Theory of Society  
September 17: The 'Function' of Punishment

#### **Week 4: Marxian Themes in Punishment (September 20-24)**

##### ***Required Reading Materials:***

- *Punishment and Modern Society*: (Chapter 4) “The Political Economy of Punishment: Rusche and Kirchheimer and the Marxist Tradition” (pp. 83-110)

##### ***Suggested Reading:***

- *Punishment and Modern Society*: (Chapter 5) “Punishment as Ideology and Class Control: Variation on Marxist Themes” (pp. 111-130)

##### ***Class Activities:***

September 20: Marx’s Theory of Society

September 22: Applying Marxian Themes to Punishment

September 24: Evaluating Neo-Marxist Perspectives

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#### **Week 5: Weberian Themes in Punishment (September 27 - October 1)**

##### ***Required Reading Materials:***

- *Punishment and Modern Society*: (Chapter 8) “The Rationalization of Punishment: Weberian Themes and Modern Penality” (pp. 177-192)

##### ***Class Activities:***

September 27: Weberian Social Theory

September 29: Weberian Themes in Punishment

October 1: Evaluating the Weberian Perspective

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#### **Week 6: Foucault’s *Discipline and Punish* (October 4-8)**

##### ***Required Reading Materials:***

- *Punishment and Modern Society*: (Chapter 6) “Punishment and the Technologies of Power: The Work of Michel Foucault” (pp. 131-156)

##### ***Suggested Reading:***

- *Punishment and Modern Society*: (Chapter 7) “Beyond the Power Perspective: A Critique of Foucault on Punishment” (pp. 157-176)

##### ***Class Activities:***

October 4: “Discipline and Punish” – The Philosophy of Foucault

October 6: The Carceral Continuum in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

October 8: Evaluating Foucault’s Theory

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#### **Week 7: Elias and “Civilized” Punishment (October 11-15)**

##### ***Required Reading Materials:***

- *Punishment and Modern Society*: (Chapter 10) “Punishment and Sensibilities: A Genealogy of ‘Civilized’ Sanctions” (pp. 213-248)

##### ***Class Activities and Assignments:***

October 11: Elias and Social Change

October 13: Changing Sensibilities and Punishment

October 15: Evaluating Elias’ Perspective

- **Theory Reflection and Application (Due October 15)**

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**Week 8: Mid-Term Exam (October 18-22)**

***Class Activities:***

October 18: Theory and Exam Review

October 20: **Mid-Term Exam**

October 22: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Societal Trends

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**Week 9: The Critical Perspective (October 25-29)**

***Required Reading Materials:***

- “Deadly Symbiosis: When Ghetto and Prison Meet and Mesh” by Loïc Wacquant
- “The New Jim Crow” by Michelle Alexander

***Class Activities:***

October 25: Racial Disparities in Punishment

October 27: Perspectives on Racial Inequality

October 29: Evaluating Critical Theories of Punishment

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**Week 10: Penal Modernism (November 1-5)**

***Required Reading Materials:***

- *The Culture of Control*: (Chapter 2) “Modern Criminal Justice and the Penal-Welfare State”

***Class Activities:***

November 1: Penal-Modernism of the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

November 3: Intellectual Origins of ‘Penal Modernism’

November 5: Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Theoretical Assumptions

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**Week 11: A System in Crisis (November 8-12)**

***Required Reading Materials:***

- *The Culture of Control*: (Chapter 3) “The Crisis of Penal Modernism”

***Class Activities:***

November 8: Crime, Cynicism, and Control

November 10: Distrusting Institutions

November 12: “Nothing Works” as a Philosophy

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**Week 12: Penal Populism (November 15-19)**

***Required Reading Materials:***

- *The Culture of Control*: (Chapter 5) “Policy Predicament: Adaptation, Denial, and Acting Out”

***Class Activities:***

November 15: The Populist Turn

November 17: The Return of Retribution

November 19: The Impact of Penal Populism

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**Week 13: Mass Incarceration (November 22-26)**

***Required Reading Materials:***

- *The Culture of Control*: (Chapter 6) “Crime Complex: The Culture of High Crime Societies”

***Class Activities:***

November 22: Mass Incarceration

November 24: **No Class – Thanksgiving Break**

November 26: **No Class – Thanksgiving Break**

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**Week 14: Crime and Punishment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (November 29 - December 3)**

***Required Reading Materials:***

- TBA

***Class Activities:***

November 29: Crime and Punishment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

December 1: Between Fear and Freedom

December 3: Lacking a Coherent Theory of Punishment

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**Week 15: Course Conclusions (December 6-10)**

***Assigned Reading Materials:***

- TBA

***Class Activities and Assignments:***

December 6: Radicalism and the De-Institutionalization Movements

December 8: Course Wrap-Up and Exam Preparations

December 10: CLG Presentations

- **CLG Presentations (December 10)**

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**Final Exam (December 14; 1:10-3:10 p.m.)**