

POLI 3809: The Politics of Punishment (Honors Seminar)

Dr. Anna Gunderson

Spring 2020

E-mail: agunderson@lsu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Office: 232 Stubbs Hall

Web: Moodle

Class Hours: Th 1:30-4:20 p.m.

Classroom: 203 French House

Course Description

One of the most significant developments in American politics over the last few decades has been the massive growth and expansion of the carceral state. More people are physically incarcerated and on programs like parole and probation than ever before: now, 1 in 31 Americans is under some form of correctional control. What explains this massive shift? How do our political institutions affect the nature and character of coercive institutions?

Political science has only recently begun to engage seriously with the implications of this massive expansion. This class engages directly with theoretical and empirical material to address the above questions and more. We will read academic articles and books, and you will be expected to take the time to read and understand the material. At the end of this course, you will have an understanding of the complex nature of our coercive institutions and the ways in which political science and other academic disciplines seek to understand them.

Required Materials

There is no assigned book for this class, though we will read excerpts of books below. I will make the chapters available electronically on Moodle, or you can purchase the books if you would like. Other journal articles we use can be accessed via LSU's library or on our class website on Moodle.

Books

1. *The Prison and the Gallows* by Marie Gottschalk
2. *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
3. *The First Civil Right* by Naomi Murakawa
4. *Locked In* by John Pfaff
5. *Locking Up Our Own* by James Forman, Jr.
6. *Captive Nation* by Dan Berger

7. *Are Prisons Obsolete?* by Angela Y. Davis

Grading Policy

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Attendance and Participation | 20% (60 points) |
| Discussion Facilitation | 20% (60 points) |
| Angola Trip and Response | 10% (30 points) |
| Final Paper Proposal | 5% (15 points) |
| Final Paper | 30% (90 points) |
| Final Presentation | 10% (30 points) |
| Final Discussion | 5% (15 points) |
| Total | 100% (300 points) |

20% of your grade is determined by *attendance and participation*. This grade has two components. First, physical *attendance* in class comprises 5%. An attendance sheet will be

and what you learned from it; c) evaluate your initial expectations in light of the trip; and d) link any of the experiences to politics more broadly (current events or any topics we have covered or will cover in the course). Please note that the trip is not mandatory, if you are unable to come because of scheduling or personal reasons. If you are unable to go for whatever reason, you will complete a similar assignment from a viewing of the Netflix series, *When They See Us*. What did you know about the case prior to this series, and how did those expectations change? How is the story impacted by politics? **Whether you attend the Angola Prison tour or watch *When They See Us*, the reflection papers are due in my mailbox one week after the tour is completed.**

30% of your grade is determined by a 15-20 page *final paper* that analyzes some facet of the politics of punishment. This paper is an original research paper, whereby you are expected to engage with the readings in this class and others, put forth an original argument, and provide some detail on how you may test your argument empirically (though you do not have to implement your research design). More details below, but start thinking about an original research idea related to the politics of punishment now. Finally, see below, but you are expected to incorporate your discussant's comments in your final draft

05 2n137 (d1a7 237 (drr60 (p
som30 (ori/Spaigiori/Spaappre)-87ximae lyate/Spa5 -1ate/Spa(a ut0MC /Spar)-41 (is)-41 (complpdea)-2
arSpan638 ortate2 2big(arSpan65 (tudea)-ate2 2qu(ar (as1a7137)]Triginal1.)]PMC /Sp)]PMC3 (our)bel

to-o

ar7 n6<</-8a0 0 6.2286 0 99.273 572.035 Tm(30%)T72a16.81a1

|

|



<https://calendly.com/agunderson/30min>.



During Class



Thank you for reading the syllabus! If you see this note before the start of class on August 29, please send me an email with your favorite .gif (appropriate ones only, please) for two extra credit points. Note that your .gif may be shared in the first class.

Class Discussions



