



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CRIMINOLOGY

CRIM 416

THE SOCIOLOGY OF PUNISHMENT

30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 + 2, 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Mid-year break: 3 to 13 July 2014

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Tuesday 16:10 - 18:00 Murphy MY401

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Professor John Pratt
Murphy building, MY 1116
Tel: 463 5327
E-mail: john.pratt@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-4pm

If you are not able to make this time please contact Professor Pratt to arrange an alternative time.

Communication of additional information

Students will be informed during class of any additional information or by e mail. There is a student noticeboard outside the lifts on level 11 of Murphy building where general information, which may be of interest to you, is displayed. There is also a School student noticeboard on level 9 of the Murphy building. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

An examination and explanation of the forms, functions, and significance of punishment in modern society.

Course content

This course begins by developing an understanding of the main institutions and processes of modern penal systems. While New Zealand will be the main focus, we will regularly draw on developments in other jurisdictions (particularly Britain, the United States of America and Australia) to gain insight into the fundamental issues of modern punishment (rather than focussing upon all the penal minutiae of any particular jurisdiction). After an examination of general views on how criminals should be punished, we look at how these have been refocused around particular themes and interests in the post 1970 period, through an examination of key texts of this period, while moving towards an explanation of these developments. This section of the course concludes with an examination of non-punitive OECD countries.

A prison visit, subject to the permission of the Department of Corrections, will be made early in the first trimester.

This will be followed by a focus upon the sociology and history of punishment. We will examine the theoretical accounts of writers such as Foucault, Durkheim and others which try to explain why penal practice has changed over time and why particular societies adopt particular stages and levels of punishment. At the close of this stage of the course, students should be moving to towards an outline of their long essay, which they will be able to work on in depth from May to early September. In August, there will be successive student presentations of their research projects with a view to successfully developing these through collegial support and constructive criticism.

NB: attendance at these presentations is compulsory.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing this course should be able to:

1. develop a sound understanding of contemporary themes and issues that have been influential in the development of modern punishment.
2. develop a critical understanding of how these have been developed and have come to prominence.
3. explore a range of theoretical perspectives which seek to explain "punishment today".

Teaching format

The course structure combines seminars and student presentations in a format that aims to guide students through the major topic areas, introduce them to a range of explanatory perspectives and allow them to present and discuss their own research projects.

The teaching of this course will be seminar based: to ensure its success, students are expected to actively participate in class discussions, as well as preparing in advance of the seminar from the appropriate reading material.

All students are required to deliver one class presentation on a chosen topic and to lead the discussion during this class. It is expected that this presentation will address the area selected by each student for examination in the research essay.

SEMINAR OUTLINE

4 March	Introduction; course organisation and overview of current penal trends
11 March	How should we punish criminals?
18 March	Towards Gulags Western Style: the work Nils Christie
25 March	Prison Visit
1 April	Penal Populism: the work of John Pratt
8 April	New visions of social control: the work of Stan Cohen
15 April	Non-punitive societies: the work of John Pratt

18 April – 4 May Mid-Trimester Break

6 May	Durkheim: Punishment and Social Solidarity
13 May	Marx: The Political Economy of Punishment
20 May	Foucault: Punishment and Power
27 May	Elias: Punishment and Sensitivities
3 June	Howe: The Penal Control of Women

Trimester 2

14 July	Extended Essay Preparation
21 July	Extended Essay Preparation
28 July	Extended Essay Preparation
4 August	Student Presentations

11 August	Student Presentations
18 August	Student Presentations
25 August	Student Presentations
1 September	Student Presentations
8 September	Student Presentations
15 September	Student Presentations
22 September	Student Presentations
29 September	Student Presentations
6 October	Student Presentations
13 October	Student Presentations

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. attend all seminars
2. submit the two pieces of written work: (i) a book review, 2000 words in length; (ii) an extended essay of 8,000 words
3. make an oral presentation on the topic of their extended essay

Please note it is very important for all students to attend all the student presentations.

Workload

In accordance with guidelines from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the average workload per week is 10 hours for a 30-point course. (300 hours across two trimesters).

Attending seminars 2 hours/week

Reading for seminars 4 hours/week

Reading for and writing assignments 4 hours/week

The book review should take approximately 40 hours to complete and the extended essay should take approximately 120 hours spread over 3 months.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2000 word book review	20%	1, 2, 3	15 April 2014
2	8000 word extended essay	70%	1,2,3	26 Sept. 2014
3	Student presentation (length 15 minutes)	10%	1,2,3	TBA

This course is internally assessed.

(i) Book Review

Maximum word limit: 2000 words

Percentage of final grade: 20%

Due Date: Tuesday, April 15th 2014

Book Review Guide

The book you choose to review must be approved in advance by Professor Pratt

It must be submitted in the following format:

- On A4 paper. Please use **one** side of the paper only.
- Text to be **typed**
- If you have drawn on other literature in the course of your review, it must be included in a bibliography.

Book Review Guidelines

You should attempt to address the following issues in your review;

- What is the book about?
- What is the book attempting to achieve; does it achieve this?
- What is the theoretical/policy/political context of the book?
- What is new or significant about it?
- To what extent have the book's objectives been met?
- What, if any, are the book's shortcomings?
- How could the book be improved?
- What is your overall impression of it?
- To what extent does it contribute to/expand criminological knowledge?

Choosing Your Book

Subject to library availability your book should be of both interest to you and of relevance to the general themes of CRIM 416. It should thus be a book which has a strong empirical content (i.e., its central concern is with particular aspects of crime problems) but at the same time should approach this from a particular theoretical perspective (implicit or explicit). For example, a good book on the growth of imprisonment in the United States is Nils Christie's (2000) *Crime Control as Industry*. John Braithwaite's (1989) *Crime, Shame and Reintegration* has become one of the most important theoretical contributions to the development of crime policy in recent years

Please note, as well, that it is preferable to choose a **book** to review rather than an edited collection of readings (as in Rubington and Weinberg's *Deviance: The Interactionist Perspective*).

A final point. You are expected to provide a **critical review**. That is, **you must try to summarise the book's strengths and weaknesses**. It is **not** sufficient to simply tell me what the book is about – and nothing more than this.

(ii) Extended Essay

Maximum length: 8000 words

Percentage of final grade: 70%

Due date: Friday, 26 September 2014

Details of and other issues relating to the essay will be regularly discussed in class. However, students should aim to have an outline of their essay prepared for the end of the first trimester. During the second trimester they invited to regularly discuss their essays with Professor Pratt as they take shape.

(iii) Student Presentation

Percentage of final grade: 10%

Due date: To be arranged, but please note that this is likely to be in the first two weeks of September 2014.

Assessment in this tripartite fashion has been designed and weighted to reflect the balance of this honours course and its objectives: to allow students to conduct a research project of their own; to undertake a literature search as a preliminary to this; and to engage colleagues in constructive and supportive discussions in the form of an oral presentation of their research programme.

The Criminology Programme insists on a high standard of written work from students. You should therefore ensure that there are no spelling or grammatical errors in your assignments, and that references are accurately cited. Careful proof-reading of assignments is essential. Failure to meet these standards will result in the deduction of marks.

Submission and return of work

Work should be submitted to the Essay Box, School Administration Office which is on the 9th Floor of the Murphy Building. Please include the School's Assignment Cover Sheet (a sample is attached at the back of this Outline) when submitting your assignments. This ensures that you have provided essential information. You may wish to have a front page of your own on your assignment, but the top sheet must be the School's Assignment Cover Sheet. Further copies can be found at the School's Administration office and also on the School's Essay Box table, on level 9 of Murphy building. The turn around time for marking of assignments is normally 2 weeks. Marked assignments not collected in lectures can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00 pm only** from Monday to Friday.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Assignments must be handed in by the due date. You are expected to keep to this deadline, as otherwise it is unfair to other students. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and should be sought from John Pratt (course co-ordinator). An example of an exceptional circumstance would be illness, supported by a letter from a medical practitioner. Please note that lack of organisation, word-processing failures and other work demands are not "good reasons".

Penalties

Late submission of work without permission will be penalised by the following deductions:

One grade = period up to and including 24 hours past due date.

Two grades = period from 24 hours up to and including 72 hours past due date.

Work that is handed in later than 72 hours without prior permission will not be accepted.

Careful proof-reading of assignments is essential. Failure to meet these standards will result in the deduction of marks.

Any section of an assignment that exceeds the word limit will not be assessed.

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

Subject to the approval of the Department of Corrections, a field trip to a local prison will take place early on in the course, replacing the seminar that week.

Set Text

Garland, David (1990), *Punishment and Modern Society*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Students can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Recommended reading

The following books are recommended:

Pratt, John (2002), *Punishment and Civilization: penal tolerance and intolerance in modern society*, New York: Routledge.

Pratt, John (2007), *Penal Populism*, London: Sage.

Pratt, John (2013), *Contrasts in Punishment: an explanation of Anglophone excess and Nordic exceptionalism*, New York: Routledge.

Pratt, John (2013) (e book), *A Punitive Society: Falling Crime and Rising Imprisonment in New Zealand*, Wellington: Bridget Williams Books Ltd.

All available from VicBooks, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Campus. Students can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades

- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013

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