

Professor Alyosha Goldstein

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Office Hours: Weds. 1:30-3:30pm by appt.

Thursday 1:00-3:30pm

Ortega 313

Course Description

This course explores the far-reaching social, political, economic, and cultural consequences of the U.S. prison-industrial complex at the turn of the millennium. We will examine the pronounced racial, class and gendered terms through which criminalization and confinement have accelerated, studying the practices and institutions of control and punishment, as well as various ways in which U.S. penal and military regimes have been contested and reimagined. Course readings provide a means to consider how disciplinary and carceral practices have been historically shaped and constitute “the power of normalization and the formation of knowledge”—not limited to the literal embodiments of police and prison—that permeate virtually every dimension of contemporary life. From the emergence of penal modernity to the convict lease system to the “war on crime” to the most recent “war on terror,” this course addresses the disciplinary and corporal modes that work in tandem with subject formation, mechanisms of belonging and exclusion, and the changing configurations of capitalist accumulation.

Why has the prison moved from being a discredited institution destined for abolition, to become an expanded seemingly indispensable pillar of late modern social life? Not because it was the centerpiece of any penal program that argued the need for mass imprisonment. There was no such program. Imprisonment has emerged in its revived, reinvented form because it was able to serve a newly necessary function in the workings of late-modern, neo-liberal societies: the need for a ‘civilized’ and ‘constitutional’ means of segregating the problem populations created by today’s economic and social arrangements. The prison is located at precisely the junction point of the two most important social and penal dynamics of our time: risk and retribution.

— David Garland, The Culture of Control

Course Requirements

Student Participation (50% of final grade)

This seminar involves thoughtful and active participation in class discussion. Each week you are required to post on the course WebCT page *two or three synthetic questions* that engage the issues and debates addressed in the reading (300-500 words each). These questions should target key aspects of the reading that you would like to discuss further in class. Your questions must be posted by 10pm Wednesday prior to the class session.

Paper proposal / abstract (10% of final grade) | ***Final paper*** (40% of final grade)

Students will be expected to submit a research proposal with a preliminary list of primary and secondary sources by **October 9th**.

Final drafts are due at the beginning of the last day of class (**December 11th**). Papers should be 6000-7500 words, not including bibliography, and formatted in accordance with the guidelines specified in the current edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

Course Readings

- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (Vintage, 1977)
- Austin Sarat, ed., *Law, Violence, and the Possibility of Justice* (Princeton University Press, 2001)
- Julie Skurski and Fernando Coronil, "States of Violence and the Violence of States"
- Alex Lichtenstein, *Twice the Work of Free Labor: The Political Economy of Convict Labor in the New South* (Verso, 1995)
- Brian Masaru Hayashi, *Democratizing the Enemy: The Japanese American Internment* (Princeton University Press, 2004)
- Jonathan Simon, *Governing through Crime: How the War on Crime Transformed American Democracy and Created a Culture of Fear* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
- Steve Herbert, *Citizens, Cops, and Power: Recognizing the Limits of Community* (University Of Chicago Press, 2006)
- Dylan Rodríguez, *Forced Passages: Imprisoned Radical Intellectuals and the U.S. Prison Regime* (University Of Minnesota Press, 2006)
- Lorna Rhodes, *Total Confinement: Madness and Reason in the Maximum Security Prison* (University of California Press, 2004)
- Nicholas De Genova, *Working the Boundaries: Race, Space, and "Illegality" in Mexican Chicago* (Duke University Press, 2005)
- Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Duke University Press, 2007)
- Ruth Wilson Gilmore, *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California* (University of California Press, 2007)
- Angela Y. Davis, *Abolition Democracy: Beyond Empire, Prisons, and Torture* (Seven Stories, 2005)

All books available for purchase at the UNM Bookstore.

Academic Honesty

Cite all sources in your paper. Any language or other material presented in your paper without quotation marks or citation must be your own work. "Academic dishonesty... (includes, but is not limited to)... dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or work done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure of misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records." (*Pathfinder, Student Code of Conduct*, 2.4). The American Studies Department supports this policy. If you're found guilty of academic dishonesty, you will receive an "F" for the class and be reported to the Dean of Students.

Students With Disabilities

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the office for Services for Students with disabilities. Appropriate accommodations may then be provided for you. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent full demonstration of academic ability should contact the professor personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate your educational opportunities.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 28 | Week 1

[Introduction]

September 4 | Week 2

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (Vintage, 1977)

September 11 | Week 3

Austin Sarat, ed., *Law, Violence, and the Possibility of Justice* (Princeton University Press, 2001)

Julie Skurski and Fernando Coronil, "States of Violence and the Violence of States," in *States of Violence*, eds. Fernando Coronil and Julie Skurski (University of Michigan Press, 2006)
[placed on eReserve]

September 18 | Week 4

Alex Lichtenstein, *Twice the Work of Free Labor: The Political Economy of Convict Labor in the New South* (Verso, 1995)

September 25 | Week 5

Brian Masaru Hayashi, *Democratizing the Enemy: The Japanese American Internment* (Princeton University Press, 2004)

October 2 | Week 6

Jonathan Simon, *Governing through Crime: How the War on Crime Transformed American Democracy and Created a Culture of Fear* (Oxford University Press, 2007)

October 9 | Week 7

Steve Herbert, *Citizens, Cops, and Power: Recognizing the Limits of Community* (University Of Chicago Press, 2006)

October 16 | Week 8

- [Fall Break]

October 23 | Week 9

Dylan Rodríguez, *Forced Passages: Imprisoned Radical Intellectuals and the U.S. Prison Regime* (University Of Minnesota Press, 2006)

October 30 | Week 10

Lorna Rhodes, *Total Confinement: Madness and Reason in the Maximum Security Prison* (University of California Press, 2004)

November 6 | Week 11

Nicholas De Genova, *Working the Boundaries: Race, Space, and "Illegality" in Mexican Chicago* (Duke University Press, 2005)

November 13 | Week 12

Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Duke University Press, 2007)

November 20 | Week 13

Ruth Wilson Gilmore, *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California* (University of California Press, 2007)

November 27 | Week 14

- [Thanksgiving Holiday]

December 4 | Week 15

Angela Y. Davis, *Abolition Democracy: Beyond Empire, Prisons, and Torture* (Seven Stories, 2005)

December 11 | Week 16

[conclusion / wrap up / paper due]

POSTING WEEKLY READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WebCT Vista Instructions

<https://vista.unm.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>

Draft and save your weekly response using a word processing program. Then cut and paste into the message field of WebCT after doing the following:

- **Log on** in the upper right corner of the screen using your UNM Net ID and password.
- Under the Course listings select (click on) **AMST-550-001 (Fall 2008)**.
- In the column on the left of the screen with the heading "Course Tools" select "**Discussions.**"
- Click on the "**Topic**" title of the week's discussion (**usually the title of the reading and date of the upcoming class session**).
- Click on "**Create Message.**"
- Paste in your reading response in the text box under "**Message.**"
- Click on "**Post**" once you are finished.