

**SOCIOLOGY 850: SOCIAL CONTROL  
FALL 2009**

**PROFESSOR: RYAN SPOHN  
WILLARD 101**

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**OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 11:00-11:30, 1:30-2:30 AND BY APPOINTMENT**

“Sociologists should pursue this question: What is the most promising candidate for their field’s central notion? The question is answered here with one word—*control*.” --Jack Gibbs

**GOALS AND ORGANIZATION**

In the first half of this course, we will critically assess the traditional and contemporary sociological perspectives on social control. This assessment will include examining the central questions posed and addressed by each perspective, the contributions of the perspective, as well as its limitations. In the second half of the course, we will examine empirical studies of social control practices within two institutional contexts: the justice and welfare systems in the U.S. The studies that we read were selected based on their relevance to the theoretical issues raised in the first half of the course.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Critiques and Seminar Discussion. Due weekly. (30% of final grade)**

To facilitate achieving the course goals, class participants should think about the following questions as we read the materials for weeks 1 through 7: (1) What are the central questions posed by the theoretical perspective? (2) How is the perspective related to other viewpoints that we have already discussed? (3) What are the important contributions of the perspective? (4) What are its limitations? (5) How could the theoretical perspective be modified to better capitalize on its strengths and address some of its limitations?

**I am requiring class participants to answer each of these questions and turn in their answers to me by 10am of the day of class each week.** (Keep a copy for yourself also.) These responses will provide notes for class participation, a foundation for the second half of the course, in studying for comprehensive exams, and in future research and teaching. We will follow the same procedure for the second half of the course, but will answer questions designed to critically assess the empirical pieces that we read. These questions will be generated a week in advance of the scheduled readings. A student will be assigned to take responsibility for class discussions as well.

**2. Paper Prospectus. Due 10/15 (15% of final grade)**

This is a plan for the seminar paper described below. It should lay out the goals of the paper and a synopsis of the arguments to be developed in the paper. Also include a section that poses any questions or issues that you would like feedback on in our class discussion. If you plan to write a research proposal, you also need to briefly outline your methodological approach and data sources. I expect your prospectus to be about 5 pages (double-spaced) in length. Please discuss your ideas for the paper with me before you begin your prospectus.

3. Midterm. Handing out 10/15, Due 10/22 (25% of final grade)
4. Seminar Paper. Due 12/11 (30% of final grade)

The seminar paper can be a literature review, research proposal, bibliographical essay, or a theoretical “think piece.” An example of a literature review would be an extensive review of the literature on the relationship between economic conditions over time and rates of imprisonment. An example of a research proposal would be a paper that includes a short review of the literature on the philosophical beliefs of colonial America and asylum building, develops a theoretical argument about the relationship between the two, and proposes an empirical study to assess predictions derived from the theory. A bibliographic essay might scout out and review sources on asylums in France, England, and the U.S., and then speculate about how the information gathered from these sources might be interpreted using one of the perspectives discussed in the first half of the course. Finally, A theoretical piece could compare and contrast the relevance of the theoretical perspectives discussed in this course for one’s own research project. If you attempt this last option, you must read further on each theoretical perspective that you discuss, and go well beyond the arguments made in the seminar. Your choice of the form and topic of your paper should ideally have some relevance to your future research or teaching, and it must go substantially beyond work that you have done (or are doing currently) for another course, thesis, or research project.

The paper should not exceed 15 pages (double-spaced, 1-inch margins) unless you clear this with me beforehand. You will need to use original sources (not internet or textbooks) as in any research paper.

Policy on Incompletes: I believe that giving students “incompletes” in courses hurts them much more than it helps, in the long run. It is very difficult to find time to make up incompletes, as motivation wanes over time, and the incomplete then comes back to haunt students in funding decisions, fellowship applications, and even job applications. Therefore, I will not give incompletes except under dire circumstances.

Academic Accommodations for Disabled Students: Any student with a disability who needs an accommodation or other assistance in this course should make an appointment to speak to me as soon as possible.

### **REQUIRED READING MATERIALS**

- Foucault, Michel. 1977. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage.
- Garland, David. 1990. *Punishment in Modern Society: A Study in Social Theory*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Garland, David. 2001. *The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Liska, Allen E. (Ed.) 1992. *Social Threat and Social Control*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Piven, Frances Fox and Richard Cloward. 1971. *Regulating the Poor: The Functions of Public Welfare*. New York: Vintage.
- Rothman, David J. 1980. *Conscience and Convenience: The Asylum and its Alternatives in Progressive America*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company.
- Manza, Jeff and Christopher Uggen. 2008. *Locked Out: Felon Disenfranchisement and American Democracy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Pratt, John. 2006. *Penal Populism*. New York: Routledge.

Packet of readings available at Arts & Sciences copycenter.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

8/27 Introduction and Overview of the Course.

### PART I. MAJOR SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL CONTROL

9/3 Social Solidarity and Social Control

Required Reading:

The following of Durkheim's essays, from *Durkheim and the Law*. 1983. Edited by S. Lukes and A. Scull. New York: St. Martin's: (READER)

- a. "Law as an Index of Social Solidarity." Pp. 33-38.
- b. "From Repressive to Restitutive Law." Pp. 39-58
- c. "The Evolution of Punishment." Pp. 102-132.
- d. "The Legal Prohibition of Suicide." Pp. 133-145.

Garland, David. 1990. *Punishment in Modern Society: A Study in Social Theory*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 2 and 3.

Additional Reading:<sup>1</sup>

Other essays in *Durkheim and the Law*. These essays cover the origins of law, property rights, and (legal) contracts, among other topics.

Erikson, Kai. 1966. *Wayward Puritans*. New York: Wiley.

Parsons, Talcott. 1962. "The Law and Social Control." Pp. 56-72 in *Law and Sociology*. Edited by W.M. Evan. New York: Free Press.

9/10 The Political Economy of Social Control

Required Reading:

Humphries, Drew and David F. Greenburg. 1984. "Social Control and Social Formation: A Marxian Analysis." Pp. 171-208 in *Toward a General Theory of Social Control, Vol. 2*. Edited by Donald Black. New York: Academic Press. (READER)

*Social Threat and Social Control*, edited by A. Liska. 1992. Albany: State University of New York Press. Chapters 2-5.

Garland, David. 1990. *Punishment in Modern Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago. Chapters 4 & 5.

Additional Reading:

Rusche, Georg and Otto Kirchheimer. 1939. *Punishment and Social Structure*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Spitzer, Steven. 1975. "Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance." *Social Problems* 22:638-51.

Turk, Austin. 1982. *Political Criminality*. Beverly Hills: Sage.

Melossi, Dario. 1990. *The State of Social Control*. Cambridge: Polity.

Cohen, Stanley. 1985. *Visions of Social Control*. Cambridge: Polity.

Box, Steve. 1987. *Recession, Crime, and Punishment*. London: Macmillan Education.

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<sup>1</sup> Additional reading citations are for future reference for people who plan to take a comprehensive exam in the crime, law, social control area, or who otherwise plan to claim expertise in criminology, social control, or sociology of law.

**9/17 A. Weberian Rationality of Social Control**  
**B. American Pragmatism, Social Behaviorism, and Social Control**

Required Reading:

Garland, David. 1990. *Punishment in Modern Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 8.

The following essays in *Selected Writings of George Herbert Mead*. 1964. Edited by A. J. Reck. Chicago: University of Chicago Press: (READER)

- a. "The Genesis of Self and Social Control." Pp. 267-93.
- b. "The Psychology of Punitive Justice." Pp. 212-39.

In *George Herbert Mead: On Social Psychology*. 1964. Edited by A. Strauss. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (READER)

- a. "Society." Pp. 249-82.

Additional Reading:

Mead, G.H. 1934. *Mind, Self, and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Dewey, John. 1922. *Human Nature and Conduct*. New York: Random House.

**9/24 Power, Knowledge, and Social Control: The Foucauldian Perspective**

Required Reading:

Garland, David. 1990. *Punishment in Modern Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 6.

Foucault, Michel. 1965. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in an Age of Reason*. New York: Pantheon. (READER) Chapters 1,2,3,6,&9.

**10/1 The Foucauldian Perspective (continued)**

Required Reading:

Garland, David. 1990. *Punishment in Modern Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 7.

Foucault, Michel. 1977. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Pantheon. Read at least parts I and II.

**10/8 A Cultural Perspective**

Required Reading:

Garland, David. 2001. *The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

## 10/15 Social Structure and Social Control Systems

### Required Reading:

Black, Donald. 1993. *The Social Structure of Right and Wrong*. New York: Academic Press. (READER) Chapters 1-3.

Gibbs, Jack p. 1989. *Control: Sociology's Central Notion*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press. (READER) Chapter 2-3.

### Additional Reading:

Black, Donald. 1984. *Towards a General Theory of Social Control, Vol. 1*. New York: Academic Press.

Horwitz, Allan V. 1990. *The Logic of Social Control*. New York: Plenum

*Paper Prospectus is due in class 10/22. Distribute copies to other seminar members.*

## 10/22 Class Discussion of Prospecti

### Required Reading:

Paper prospecti of all other seminar members.

*Participants will discuss each others' paper prospecti. Come to class prepared to discuss and offer feedback to all other participants in their work, and to clarify, discuss, and ask particular questions on your own proposals.*

## PART II. STUDIES OF SOCIAL CONTROL

### 10/29 Historical Context and Social Control

#### Required Reading:

Rothman, David J. 1980. *Conscience and Convenience: The Asylum and its Alternatives in Progressive America*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. (READER) Chapters 1-5, 9-10.

Ignatieff, Michael. 1981. "State, Civil Society and Total Institutions: A Critique of Recent Social Histories of Punishment." *Crime and Justice: An Annual Review of Research* 3:153-191. (READER)

#### Additional Reading:

Rothman, David J. 1971. *The Discovery of the Asylum*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

Cohen, Stanley and Andrew Scull. 1981. *Social Control and the State*. New York: St. Martin's.

Zedner, Lucia. 1991. "Women, Crime, and Penal Responses: A Historical Account." *Crime and Justice: A Review of Research* 14:307-62.

Ignatieff, Michael. 1978. *A Just Measure of Pain*. New York: Columbia University Press.

## 11/5 Penal Institutions as Social Control

### Required Reading:

Chiricos, Theodore G. and Miriam A. Delone. 1992. "Labor Surplus and Punishment: A Review and Assessment of Theory and Evidence." *Social Problems* 39: 421-46. (READER)

Massey, James L. and Martha A. Myers. 1989. "Patterns of Repressive Social Control in Post-Reconstruction Georgia, 1882-1935." *Social Forces* 68:458-88. (READER)

Greenberg, David F. 1980. "Penal Sanctions in Poland: A Test of Two Alternative Models." *Social Problems* 28:195-204. (READER)

Sutton, John. 1987. "Doing Time: Dynamics of Imprisonment in the Reformist State." *American Sociological Review* 52:612-30. (READER)

### Additional Reading:

Simon, Jonathon. 1993. *Poor Discipline: Parole and the Social Control of the Underclass, 1890-1990*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Sutton, John. 1988. *Stubborn Children: Controlling Delinquency in the United States., 1640-1981*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Sutton, John. 1983. "Social Structure, Institutions, and the Legal Status of Children in the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 88:915-47.

Feeley, Malcolm M. and Jonathon Simon. 1992. "The New Penology: Notes on the Emerging Strategy of Corrections and Its Implications." *Criminology* 30:449-73.

Rafter, Nichole Hahn. 1992. *Partial Justice: Women, Prisons, and Social Control*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Press.

Garland, David. 1985. *Punishment and Welfare: A History of Penal Strategies*. Brookfield, VT: Gower.

Myers, Martha A. and James L. Massey. 1991. "Race, Labor, and Punishment in Postbellum Georgia." *Social Problems* 38-267-86.

## 11/12 Felon Disenfranchisement as Social Control

### Required Reading:

Manza, Jeff and Christopher Uggen. 2008. *Locked Out: Felon Disenfranchisement and American Democracy*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapters 1-5, 7-10.

### Additional Reading:

Uggen, Christopher and Jeff Manza. 2002. "Democratic Contraction? The Political Consequences of Felon Disenfranchisement in the United States." *American Sociological Review* 67:777-803.

Hull, Elizabeth. 2006. *The Disenfranchisement of Ex-Felons*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Ewald, Alec C. and Brandon Rottinghaus (Eds.). 2009. *Criminal Disenfranchisement in an International Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

## 11/19 Populism as an Impetus for Social Control

### Required Reading:

Pratt, John. 2006. *Penal Populism*. New York: Routledge.

### Additional Reading:

Barker, Vanessa. 2009. *The Politics of Punishment: How the Democratic Process Shapes the Way America Punishes Offenders*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Green, David A. 2008. *When Children Kill Children: Penal Populism and Popular Culture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Roberts, Julian V., Loretta J. Stalans, David Indermaur, and Mike Hough. 2003. *Penal Populism and Public Opinion: Evidence from Five Countries*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Tonry, Michael. 2009. "Explanations of American Punishment Policies." *Punishment & Society* 11:377-394.

Gottschalk, Marie. 2006. *The Prison and the Gallows: The Politics of Mass Incarceration in America*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

## 1124 Welfare Policies as Social Control

### Required Reading:

Cloward, Richard. And Frances Fox Piven. 1971. *Regulating the Poor*. New York: Vintage. Chapters 1-3, 6-10, 12

Liska, Allen E. 1992. *Social Threat and Social Control*. Albany: State University of New York Press. Chapter 9.

### Additional Reading:

Piven, Frances Fox and Richard Cloward. 1978. *Poor People's Movements*. New York: Vintage.

## 12/11 Legislating Morality: Vice and Sexuality

### Required Reading:

Beisel, Nicola. 1990. "Class, Culture, and Campaigns Against Vice." *American Sociological Review* 55:44-62. (READER)

Daly, Kathleen. 1988. "The Social Control of Sexuality: A Case Study of Criminalization of Prostitution in the Progressive Era." *Research in Law, Deviance, and Social Control* 8:171-206. (READER)

Odem, Mary E. 1995. *Delinquent Daughters: Protecting and Policing Adolescent Female Sexuality in the United States, 1885-1920*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. (READER) Chapters 4 & 5.

### Additional Reading:

Smart, Carol. 1984. *The Ties that Bind: Law, Marriage, and the Reproduction of Patriarchal Relations*. London: Routledge.

**Seminar papers are due in my mailbox Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.**

## **ADDITIONAL AREA WE WILL NOT COVER:**

### **Psychiatric Institutions and Therapeutic Approaches as Social Control**

#### Required Reading:

Sutton, John R. 1991. "The Political Economy of Madness: The Expansion of the Asylum in Progressive America." *American Sociological Review* 56:665-78. (READER)

Horwitz, Allan V. 1984. "Therapy and Social Solidarity." Pp. 211-50 in *Toward a General Theory of Social Control, Vol. 1*. Edited by D. Black. New York: Academic Press. (READER)

Scull, Andrew. 1989. *Social Order, Mental Disorder*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (READER) Chapter 6.

Liska, Allen E. 1992. *Social Threat and Social Control*. Albany: State University of New York Press. Chapter 8.

#### Additional Reading:

Goffman, Erving. 1961. *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday.

Conrad, Peter and Joseph W. Schneider. 1992. *The Medicalization of Deviance*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Rafter, Nichole Hahn. 1992. "Claims-Making and Socio-Cultural Context in the First U.S. Eugenics Campaign." *Social Problems* 39:17-34.

Schneider, Joseph W. and Peter Conrad. 1980. "In the Closet with Illness: Epilepsy, Stigma Potential, and Informational Control." *Social Problems* 28:32-44.

Kitsuse, John. 1980. "Coming Out All Over: Deviants and the Politics of Social Problems." *Social Problems* 28:1-13.

Rosencrance, John. 1985. "Compulsive Gambling and the Medicalization of Deviance." *Social Problems* 32:275-84.

Billings, Dwight B. and Thomas Urban. 1982. "The Socio-Medical Construction of Transsexualism: An Interpretation and Critique." *Social Problems* 29:266-82.

Robbins, Thomas and Dick Anthony. 1982. "Deprogramming, Brainwashing, and the Medicalization of Deviant Religious Groups." *Social Problems* 29:283-97.