

University of Colorado at Boulder  
Department of Sociology

SOCY 4004: Topics in Criminology  
**Crime, Punishment, & Society**

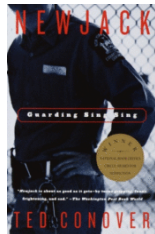
Fall 2008  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:00am to 9:15am  
Location: Duane Physics G125

<b>Professor</b>	<b>Dr. Hillary Potter</b>
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a critical examination of the history and development of the United States' system(s) of criminal punishment and rehabilitation. It covers the different ways in which the United States has sought to penalize, correct, and prevent criminal behavior. We will review multiple viewpoints about the pressing concern of what should be done with individuals who violate criminal law.

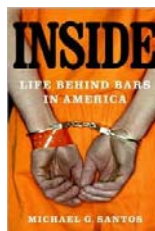
### REQUIRED READING MATERIAL



Ted Conover (2001). *Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing*. New York, NY: Vintage.



Angela Y. Davis (2003). *Are Prisons Obsolete?* New York, NY: Seven Stories Press



Michael G. Santos (2006). *Inside: Life Behind Bars in America*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press

## **TEACHING DELIVERY**

This class will incorporate several teaching methods. Each of these teaching methods is important to the learning process in this course. Some of the more common methods to be used in this class are as follows:

### ***Lectures***

Traditional lecture will be used to assure that all students are fully aware of the information the instructor wishes the students to grasp.

### ***Class Discussions***

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in discussion of the daily topics by providing their insights and asking questions for clarification or rhetorical contemplation.

### ***Group Exercises***

Small-group work may be integrated into the course to foster participation by students who do not feel as comfortable sharing their thoughts and inquiries among the larger class setting.

### ***In-Class Writing Exercises***

Short in-class writing assignments (to be written in small groups or individually) may be used to generate critical thinking on a specific topic and to encourage class participation.

### ***Documentary Films***

Documentary films will be shown throughout the course to provide visually stimulating examples for several course topics. These screenings are to be treated as “lectures” for the course, and should be taken as serious subject matter that may be included in class exams.

### ***Guest Lectures***

Corrections professionals and ex-felons will be utilized a few times throughout the course to offer their assessments about working in or serving time in correctional facilities and programs. Like the documentaries, the guest lectures are to be highly regarded and will be included on the course exams.

## **STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES**

Students desiring a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact Professor Potter immediately to discuss their needs and seek assistance at the Disability Services Office, located at Willard Administrative Center, Room 322, 303-492-8671 (voice/TTY), [DSinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:DSinfo@colorado.edu).

## COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

The course workload and percentage points are distributed as follows:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% Points</b>
Attendance & Participation	15
Experiential Research Paper (or Alternate Research Paper)	25
Quizzes	20
Examinations	40
	<b>100</b>

### ***Attendance, Reading Assignments, and Participation***

Students are expected to attend every class and to *participate* in the class proceedings. Students must attend regularly to guarantee her or his place in this course during the first two weeks of the semester. If a student fails to attend during this time, he or she may be administratively dropped from the course. (*Specifically, missing two or more classes during the first two weeks of class, may cause a student to be withdrawn.*) Student grades will not begin to be penalized for absences until after missing three classes. For excused absences, documentation is to be submitted within one week of the absence. (See types of legitimate absences and corresponding documentation below under *Examinations*.) **Students should confer with the professor outside of class sessions after an absence to find out if any handouts were provided or films were screened.** Students are *not* to notify the professor of absences before the anticipated missed class. During office hours or at a meeting time agreed upon between the student and the professor, the absentee student will be provided with any handouts. The majority, if not all, of the films to be shown in this course are owned by the professor and will be placed on reserve in Norlin Library for a two-week period following the viewing of the video. **The professor will not provide students who miss classes with notes or copies of PowerPoint presentations.** Typically, the professor's notes and PowerPoint presentations are heavily supplemented with oral lecture and are practically useless to students without notes taken by class attendees. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that each student assemble class companions with whom to exchange lecture notes in the event a class is missed.

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and listed in the CLASS SCHEDULE (see below). Prior to each class, students are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared with questions or comments *and* ready to respond to the readings. It is widely held in academia that college students should spend at least two hours studying outside of class for every hour in class. That is, **each week approximately six hours of study time should be devoted to this course.**

### ***Experiential Paper***

Each student is required to tour a correctional facility and write a corresponding research paper. If a student wishes to not tour a correctional facility for any reason, he or she may complete a traditional research paper approved by the professor. The paper counts for 25% of each student's total grade. The paper is to be turned in by **Tuesday, December 9, 2008**, in *CULearn only*. Additional details about this assignment will be provided at a later date.

### ***Quizzes***

Two quizzes, worth 10% each, will be administered during the course. Each quiz will consist of multiple-choice questions and will gauge students' comprehension of lecture material.

### ***Examinations***

There are two examinations in this course, which count for a total of 40% of each student's final grade. The midterm exam is worth 15% and will be administered on Tuesday, October 14 during the regularly scheduled class time. The final exam is worth 25% and will be administered on Wednesday, December 17, 7:30am-10:00am, in Duane Physics G125.

Each exam will consist of *only* essay questions and will be an "open-book, open-note" format. That is, everything but laptop computers and other information technology will be allowed for reference while taking exams.

Each student is to report to each examination with **blue or black ink pens and an examination "Blue Book."**

Makeup exams will *only* be given under the following conditions:

1. If the student notifies the professor (via e-mail, phone, fax, or in person) *before* the exam date and time that he or she will be missing the exam.
2. If the student will be providing the professor with written documentation, stating the reason the exam had to be missed and including a contact person and telephone number, within seven days of the date of the missed exam. (An excuse for missing the final exam must be provided immediately, if not prior to the exam.)
3. If the student has a legitimate reason for missing the exam. Some legitimate reasons for missing an exam, and their corresponding required documentation, are:

<b>Legitimate Absence</b>	<b>Proof Needed for Legitimate Absence</b>
Illness	Note from a certified medical professional or recognized spiritual healer
Death in the family	Note from a family member and funeral information
Work (should be of an urgent nature)	Note from a supervisor
NCAA or Collegiate Sports Club athletic meet	Note from a coach. <i>Documentation for regularly scheduled meets must be provided during the first two weeks of the semester</i>
Religious holiday	Note from student specifying religious affiliation, religious holiday, and corresponding activities ( <i>to be provided during the first two weeks of the semester</i> )

## GRADING

Overall course grades will be assigned on the following scale:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Overall %</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Overall %</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Overall %</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Overall %</b>
<b>A</b>	93-100%	<b>B</b>	83-86.9%	<b>C</b>	73-76.9%	<b>D</b>	63-66.9%
<b>A-</b>	90-92.9%	<b>B-</b>	80-82.9%	<b>C-</b>	70-72.9%	<b>D-</b>	60-62.9%
<b>B+</b>	87-89.9%	<b>C+</b>	77-79.9%	<b>D+</b>	67-69.9%	<b>F</b>	0-59.9%

Grades will be regularly updated on *CULearn*. However, students should also feel free to consult with the professor throughout the semester to determine where they stand in the course. It is preferred that this be done during office hours. Detailed grade information *will not* be provided via regular e-mail or phone, but can be provided via the *CULearn* e-mail system.

## **STUDENT BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

### ***The CU-Boulder Honor Code***

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to review the Honor Code booklet at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/files/honor%20code%20booklet.pdf>. The Honor Code mission reads as follows:

As citizens of an academic community of trust, CU-Boulder students do not lie or cheat whether they are on campus or acting as representatives of the university in surrounding communities. Neither should they suffer by the dishonest acts of others. Honor is about academic integrity, moral and ethical conduct, and pride of membership in a community that values academic achievement and individual responsibility. Cultivating honor lays the foundation for lifelong integrity, developing in each of us the courage and insight to make difficult choices and accept responsibility for actions and their consequences, even at personal cost.

### ***Respect***

Respect of others is not only expected, but required. This includes valuing others' opinions, no matter how wrong some may believe those views to be, and allowing others to speak without interruption. Naturally, racial or sexual harassment or other forms of harassment will not be tolerated and will be dealt with authoritatively. The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment, and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student who believes he or she has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

### ***Punctuality and Leaving during Class Time***

Students should make every effort to attend all classes on time. If a student needs to leave class early, she or he is to notify the professor of such before the start of class. In order to not disrupt class, students shall utilize the restroom and take care of other personal matters prior to or after class sessions. *Students must use restroom facilities prior to entering the classroom on quiz days. Students shall leave the room on quiz days only after completing and turning in the quiz or if the student truly (and under dire circumstances) must relieve himself or herself.*

### ***Side Conversations***

Side conversations between small groups of students make it difficult for others to actively listen and learn. Repeated warnings to students engaging in side conversations will result in the involved students being directed to leave the class session.

### ***Wireless Communications***

All communication devices must be turned off or silenced upon entering the classroom and are not to be used inside the classroom during class sessions. Aside from the obvious of speaking on wireless phones, this includes the use of text messaging on phones and other apparatuses and accessing the Internet on a laptop computer, phone, or PDA. *Any use of wireless devices or other information technology during an exam or quiz will result in a zero for the exam or quiz.*

### ***Sleeping and Other Forms of Inattention***

Falling asleep in class is not considered appropriate student behavior. Students should make the mature decision to either stay awake and alert in class or go elsewhere and get some sleep. Reading books or materials without being assigned to do so by the professor or studying for other courses during class time is also not considered appropriate student behavior. Overall, students should make every effort to pay attention, which will assist students with mastering the material. Besides, the class sessions are only 75 minutes long – but a short span of time in a 24-hour period!

### ***Class Visitors***

Family and friends of enrolled students are welcome to periodically attend a class session. Please notify the professor of class guests prior to the start of the class. Unfortunately, class visitors are limited to people/humans; animals/non-humans are not to be brought to class, unless they are used as aids for students with disabilities and these students have secured assistance from Disability Services.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

It is expected that this schedule will be strictly followed, but the professor may make adjustments if less or more time is needed on a particular topic and depending on student progress.

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
Tuesday, August 26	Course introduction	Syllabus
Thursday, August 28		
Tuesday, September 2	History of punishment	Conover, pp. 171-209
Thursday, September 4		Davis, pp. 9-39
Tuesday, September 9		
Thursday, September 11		Conover, pp. 3-35
Tuesday, September 16	Punishment theories	Conover, pp. 35-56
Thursday, September 18		Conover, pp. 57-94
Tuesday, September 23		Conover, pp. 95-136
Thursday, September 25		Conover, pp. 136-170
Tuesday, September 30	Sentencing process & sanctions	<b>Quiz #1</b> (10%) Conover, pp. 210-241
Thursday, October 2		Conover, pp. 242-271
Tuesday, October 7		Conover, pp. 272-303
Thursday, October 9		Conover, pp. 304-319
Tuesday, October 14		<b>Midterm Examination</b> (15%)
Thursday, October 16	Prison life	
Tuesday, October 21		Santos, pp. ix-xxxiii
Thursday, October 23		Santos, pp. 1-29
Tuesday, October 28		Santos, pp. 30-60
Thursday, October 30		Santos, pp. 61-85
Tuesday, November 4		Santos, pp. 86-121
Thursday, November 6		Santos, pp. 122-155
Tuesday, November 11		Santos, pp. 156-195
Thursday, November 13		Santos, pp. 196-231
Tuesday, November 18		<b>Quiz #2</b> (10%) Santos, pp. 232-259
Thursday, November 20		Santos, pp. 260-290
Tuesday, November 25	<i>Fall Break</i>	<i>NO CLASS</i>
Thursday, November 27	<i>Fall Break</i>	<i>NO CLASS</i>
Tuesday, December 2	Usefulness & effectiveness of criminal sanctions	Davis, pp. 40-83
Thursday, December 4		Davis, pp. 84-115
Tuesday, December 9		<b>Experiential Research Paper due on CULearn by 11:59pm</b> (25%)
Thursday, December 11		
Wednesday, December 17 7:30am to 10:00am		<b>Final Examination</b> (25%)

## PROFESSOR RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

As the professor for this course, I am devoted to maintaining a safe place (figuratively and literally) for students to discuss issues related to this course. It is my goal that students will not only leave the course with a better and more critical understanding of the issues addressed in the course, but that they will feel I treated them fairly and with respect regarding discussions, handling of course topics, administration of the classroom, and grading. If students have any questions or concerns about any of my statements, omissions, grading decisions, etc., I strongly encourage them to come to me with their concerns at their earliest convenience.

*Hillary Potter*