**Overview**

This course focuses on the institutions and practices of criminal punishment. In Unit 1 we will consider evidence and arguments that the criminal justice system does not function in the way it says it does, nor in the way that most Americans believe it should. We will also examine the nature of criminal punishment – what it is, why it is used, and what its meanings, effects, and limitations are. In Units 2 and 3 we will read and discuss two good books: one on retribution and criminal punishment, and the other on race, capital punishment, and justice.

Students are expected to participate in class discussions, do all of the assigned readings, and watch some films, videos, and documentaries. Students will also be required to make an in-class presentation on an issue related to criminal punishment (topic to be determined in consultation with the professor). There will be three exams: a take-home essay test based on the materials for the first unit of the course, and two in-class exams later in the semester.

*Learning Objectives*. The most general learning objective is to help students develop the ability to think clearly and independently about issues related to criminal punishment. The specific learning objectives are to understand the nature of criminalization and criminal punishment; their causes, justifications, and effects; their connections to social facts such as class, race, gender, nationality, and culture; their political meanings and motivations; their variation in the world; and their functions and failures.

**Grades**

Grades will be based on how many points are earned out of 100. 90-100 points is an A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, and 59 points or fewer is an F. Points will be allocated as follows: Attendance & Participation (10 points), Pop Quizzes (10 points), Oral Presentation on a book or case or problem (20 points), Exam 1 (30 points), Exam 2 (15 points), and Exam 3 (15 points).

**Academic Honesty**

Our definition of plagiarism comes from the UH Manoa Student Conduct Code: “Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or ‘drylabbing,’ which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.” It is each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules or saying “I forgot” or “I made a mistake” are not valid excuses. *Note*: Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in an F for the assignment and an F for the course. See here for more on the rules of academic honesty: [https://www.hawaii.edu/eli/useful-information-for-students/academic-honesty](https://www.hawaii.edu/eli/useful-information-for-students/academic-honesty).
Kokua

Students who need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability are invited to contact me privately. Please do so during the first week of the semester. I will be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations to your situation. KOKUA’s tel is 808-956-7511/7612. The KOKUA office is Room 13 of the Queen Lili’uokalani Center for Student Services.

*Required Books*


*Wrongful Conviction Case Studies:* Socrates, Jesus of Nazareth, Beatrice Six (NE), Kirk Bloodsworth (MD), Kristine Bunch (IN), Kerry Max Cook (TX), Kevin Cooper (CA), Ronald Cotton (NC), Carlos DeLuna (TX), Iwao Hakamada (Japan), Alvin Jardine (HI), Norfolk Four (VA), Thomas Quick (Sweden), Jerry Sandusky (PA), policeman Tom Coleman & the War on Drugs in Tulia (TX), Cameron Todd Willingham (TX), and many more.


*The leading journal on criminal punishment is* Punishment & Society: The International Journal of Penology (est. 1999), at [https://journals.sagepub.com/home/pun](https://journals.sagepub.com/home/pun)
Supplementary Readings


Gonzalez Van Cleve. *Crook County: Racism and Injustice in America’s Largest Criminal Court* (Stanford, 2016).

Grisham, John. *The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town* (Dell, 2006).


Parcell, T.J. *Fish: A Memoir of a Boy in a Man’s Prison* (Da Capo Press, 2006).


**COURSE SCHEDULE for SOCILOGY 432: ANALYSIS in CORRECTIONS** (W 8/26/2020 – W 12/9/2020)*

1. **August 26 - The Nature of Criminal Punishment**


   C. Read & discuss the hypothetical “Edwina Jones” case (to be distributed in class)

2. **September 2 - Prisons & Flogging**


E. Watch in class the “60 Minutes” video on prisons in Germany, “Crime and Punishment” (produced by Mark Lieberman and reported by Bill Whitaker, March 4, 2018, 14 mins), at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DgoIHxIxGxmgGylK9dZE1q6finoKkU01l/view


4. **September 16 or so** – IF POSSIBLE, we will arrange a study trip this week to Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC, the main jail on Oahu), at 2199 Kamehameha Highway, Honolulu, HI, 96819 → details to be announced… (OCCC contact is Mr. Christopher R. Austria).

5. **September 23** - Reiman & Leighton, *The Rich Get Richer & The Poor Get Prison (RGRPGP)*, Chapters 3-4 & Conclusion, pp.113-211

6. **September 30** – Review + GET EXAM 1 (Due at beginning of class on Wednesday October 7)

7. **October 7** – Retribution & Punishment  [ *EXAM 1 DUE* ]

   *Watch video in class “Robert Blecker Wants Me Dead” (iTunes, 2009, 44 minutes)


8. **October 14** - Retribution & Punishment


9. **October 21** – Retribution & Punishment


10. **October 28** – Retribution & Punishment


    *Scott Turow, “To Kill or Not to Kill” (*The New Yorker*, January 6, 2003), at https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2003/01/06/to-kill-or-not-to-kill
11. **November 4 – Exam 2**, in class (15 points)

12. **November 11 – Race & Capital Punishment** [NO CLASS: VETERANS DAY]

13. **November 18 – Race & Capital Punishment**

14. **November 25 – Race & Capital Punishment**

15. **December 2 – Reflections on Crime, Punishment, & Justice**
   *Write & discuss “Three Theses on Criminal Punishment” (details TBA)

16. **December 9 - Exam 3**, in class (15 points)
Supplementary Study Units

A. Punishing White-Collar Crime


B. Punishing Sex Offenders


C. Punishing Police


D. Punishing Crime on the Oceans

Ian Urbina, *The Outlaw Ocean: Journeys Across the Last Untamed Frontier* (Knopf, 2019).


E. Parole


F. Punishment & Jailhouse Informants


G. Restorative Justice


Restorative Justice video (2019, 18 minutes), at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11niMv5QM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11niMv5QM)