

## **Legal Studies 170 Crime & Criminal Justice Summer Session I 2010**

Lectures: 12:00-2:00 on M, T, W, Th, in 219 Dwinelle Hall

Visiting Professor Richard Perry; email: <[rperry@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:rperry@email.sjsu.edu)>

Office hours 11:30 to 12:00 M,T,W,Th, location TBA

GSI: Nicole Lindahl; email: <. . >; office hours TBA, location TBA;

Sections 101 Tues. 2:00-4:00 and 102 Weds. 2:00-4:00, both in B56 Hildebrand

**Caveats:** This is a draft syllabus for the first six-week summer session of 2010 only. It is based in large measure upon five previous summer offerings of this course, as well as upon feedback from students and colleagues. This syllabus will likely be quite different from the course design of LS 170 that will be offered during the fall semester of 2010. Because the Legal Studies Department also offers distinct core courses focused on policing and punishment, in order to minimize redundancy in the curriculum, this course will spend somewhat less time on those areas of scholarship. Some changes in the order of topics and readings, and in the dates of guest speakers, may be made up until the beginning of the class. Readers of this draft syllabus who notice typos or other errors are morally required to email the professor about them.

**Course Description:** This course introduces the scholarly classical frameworks for thinking about crime, as well as subsequent evolutions of these frameworks. It examines the scope and nature of crime in the United States from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, as well as the uses and limits of the criminal justice system. Further topics will include the massive expansion of the U.S. prison system in recent years and its relation to crime rates, critical analyses of different theories of the causes of crime, strategies for preventing and controlling crime, the death penalty, gun control, white collar crime, and crime in family settings. The course will introduce concepts of criminal law and the main elements of the criminal justice system, including police, courts, and corrections. It will consider the main institutional features, problems, and critiques of the processes through which suspects are apprehended, tried, sentenced, and punished. Past and current trends and policy questions will be discussed.

### **Topical and Thematic Structure of this Summer 2010 Course Offering:**

This course is organized into three main parts. The first part introduces the major classical frameworks for thinking about crime in the West since the 17<sup>th</sup> century foundations of the modern state. It examines central texts and thinkers, and surveys key concepts and debates. It discusses the emergence and major shifts in core institutions of criminal justice -- courts, policing, corrections -- and the socio-political implications of these developments.

Building upon this historical foundation, the second part of the course goes on to examine at core Anglo-American criminal law concepts and doctrines in a critical law & society fashion. It considers these concepts from an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective.

The third and final part of the course will focus on leading recent developments in criminal law and justice policy, in the shifting empirical facts of crime and criminal justice in the U.S. and

elsewhere, and will consider new contemporary theoretical frameworks for understanding these recent developments. Since U.C. Berkeley is now, and has long been, one of the world's leading centers for the study of law and society, the work of both past and current Berkeley scholars at will be highlighted in particular.

**Required Readings (copies of books will be put on reserve in Moffitt Library):**

- i. Michel Foucault, 1977. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*.
- ii. Jonathan Simon 2007 *Governing through Crime*.
- iii. LS 170 Reader, in three packets, available at Copy Central on Bancroft Way. Reader packet two should be brought to class, because we will work through the cases and doctrines in class discussion.
- iv. Various supplementary hand-outs, especially on current cases and controversies, will be distributed in class for discussion. These will be considered part of the required readings.

**Recommended:**

- i. Franklin Zimring & Gordon Hawkins, 1997. *Crime is Not the Problem: Lethal Violence in America*. Passages will be made available on bSpace for in-class discussion.
- ii. Loic Wacquant, 2009. *Punishing the Poor: The Neo-liberal Government of Social Insecurity*

**Materials will be made available on the bSpace page as soon the professor is given access to bSpace. Those students – especially foreign and other visiting students -- who have no access or only limited access to bSpace or the Internet should speak to the professor at the first class period so that accommodations can be made.**

**Evaluation and Grading:**

There will be three tests. The first test will consist of short-essay take-home questions. It will be handed out at the end of the second week of classes, on Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and it must be submitted at the beginning of class the following Monday. It should be typed, in standard form: double-spaced, 12-point font, and one-inch margins.

The second test will be an in-class exam administered at the last class meeting of the fourth week, i.e., on Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>. This test will to some extent resemble a typical law school exam. It will have both multiple-choice and essay components, so students should bring a green Scantron form and a blue book.

The third and final exam will be a take-home essay exam distributed at the last class meeting. The questions will be designed to draw together concepts and materials from the entire course.

These three tests will each count for 30% of the grade, for a total of 90%. Since the final test will include material from the first two sections of the course, if the grade on the final test is higher