

Punishment: Syllabus

Instructor: Matthew Adams (please feel free to call me Matthew!)

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Office hours: By appointment.

Class Meeting Times: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 1:00-3:15pm in New Cabell Hall 303.

Introduction to the Course

Welcome to this intensive summer course on punishment! The course will allow us to become immersed in the interesting topic of punishment and to explore it from a number of different vantage points; it will also serve as an introduction to some core topics in philosophy. If there is anything that I can do to help you during the course, or if any issues arise please let me know. I am very happy to meet you outside class and to give you as much individual help and support as you need.

Below is an overview of the material that I provisionally plan to cover. The schedule is not rigid and we will proceed at a natural pace, therefore, if we don't get around to covering all of this material or we decide to explore a particular topic in more depth that will be just fine. Also, if anyone is particularly interested in covering a topic that is not presently included on the syllabus please me know, as I am flexible about what we cover.

Overview of Material Covered

Main Texts:

Thom Brooks, *Punishment* (Oxford: Routledge 2013).

Plato trans. G.M.A. Grube, *Five Dialogues* (London: Hackett, 2002).

Michel Foucault trans. Alan Sheridan, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (NY: Vintage Books, 1995).

You *don't* have to buy these books because all materials will be posted on collab a day or so in advance. You can of course purchase them if you would like. (All of them are available from Amazon etc).

Unit 1: The Justification of Punishment

Monday July 13: Introduction (no reading assigned)

Tuesday July 14: Thom Brooks, "Retributivism," in *Punishment* (Oxford: Routledge 2013).

Wednesday July 15: Thom Brooks, "Deterrence," in *Punishment* (Oxford: Routledge 2013).

Thursday July 16: Thom Brooks, "Rehabilitation," in *Punishment* (Oxford: Routledge 2013).

Friday July 17: John Stuart Mill, "Speech in Favor of Capital Punishment.;" Charles Gilpin, "Speech Against Capital Punishment." And Ernest van den Haag, "The Ultimate Punishment: A Defense," *Harvard Law Review*, 1986. (The last reading is optional.)

Monday July 20: First Exam

Unit 2: Contemporary Issues and Punishment

Tuesday July 21: Warren Burger et al., “Furman v. Georgia,” U.S. Supreme Court (1972); William Rehnquist et al., “McCleskey v. Kemp,” U.S. Supreme Court (1987).

Wednesday July 22: Stephen Nathanson, “Does It Matter if the Death Penalty is Arbitrarily Administered?” *Philosophy and Public Affairs Volume: 14 Issue 2* (1985): 149-164.

Thursday July 23: Joel B. Zivot, “The Absence of Cruelty is Not the Presence of Humanness: Physicians and the Death Penalty in the United States,” *Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine* 7 (2012): 7-13.

Friday July 24: Richard A. Wasserstrom, “Strict Liability in the Criminal Law,” *Philosophical Issues in Law: Cases and Materials* (New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1977).

Monday July 27: Katrina Sifferd, *Changing the Criminal Character: Nanotechnology and Criminal Punishment, Proceedings of the 2011 Law and Science Young Scholars Symposium* (Pavia University Press, 2012).

Tuesday July 28: Thom Brooks, “Juvenile Offenders,” in *Punishment* (Oxford: Routledge 2013).

Wednesday July 29: Second Exam

Thursday July 30: James D. Marshall, “Punishment and Moral Education,” *Journal of Moral Education* 13 (1984): 83-89.

Unit 3: Classic Texts and Punishment

Friday July 31: Plato trans. G.M.A. Grube, “Apology” in *Five Dialogues* (London: Hackett, 2002). (Please read the first half.)

Monday August 3: Plato trans. G.M.A. Grube, “Apology” in *Five Dialogues* (London: Hackett, 2002). (Please read the second half.)

Tuesday August 4: Michel Foucault trans. Alan Sheridan, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (NY: Vintage Books, 1995), excerpts).

Wednesday August 5: Michel Foucault trans. Alan Sheridan, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (NY: Vintage Books, 1995), (excerpts).

Thursday August 6: Third Exam.

Assessment

Participation (25%): You are expected to attend all of the classes and to read the required material in advance. If you are ill or cannot attend a particular session for a good reason then please email me and let me know in advance. Merely attending the lectures will not be sufficient. Active and thoughtful participation (including active listening) will be expected and required. The assessment grade will also reflect your contribution to group projects and individual writing assignments that are done in class.

Exams (75%): There will be three exams each worth 25% of the final grade. I will explain the structure and content of these exams in advance. I will also give you advice on how best to prepare for them.

Exam Dates

First Exam: Monday July 20

Second Exam: Wednesday July 29

Third Exam: Thursday August 6

Policies

1. No electronic devices (laptops or mobile phones) in class.
2. Please show respect for your fellow students during discussion.