

**Amherst College  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

**Sociology 36: Incarceration and The Family  
Wednesday, 2-4:30pm  
Fall 2010**

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11am-1pm.  
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**INTRODUCTION**

The number of incarcerated persons in the United States has increased dramatically, almost tripling over the past twenty years. According to the Bureau of Justice, as of 2007, 762 per 100,000 United States residents are in custody; an incarceration rate higher than any other nation in the world. The penal system has, almost without public acknowledgement, become a central feature of our social order. Given this, the ways in which the penal system has become linked to and intertwined with other central institutions, not the least of which is the family, in our society has become increasingly important. We will examine policies and practices within penal institutions dealing with motherhood and fatherhood, as well as the connection between the penal system and the welfare system, in order to consider the following questions: How are fatherhood and motherhood constructed in penal facilities? In what ways do cultural assumptions about masculinity and femininity filter in, and out of, the penal system? What are the consequences for such assumptions?

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** These books are available at Food For Thought Books, located at 106 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002-1703.

Black, Tim. 2009. When a heart turns rock solid: The lives of three Puerto Rican brothers on and off the streets. Pantheon.

Haney, Lynne. 2010. Offending women: Power, punishment, and the regulation of desire. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Below is a description of the assignments for this course. I reserve the right to adjust assignments over the course of the semester (for example, to move a due date because the class needs additional time on an assignment). The class will be notified in advance of any changes to the assignments.

1. **Short response paper (10 points):** There will be one short response paper (4-5 pages) after the visit to the Hampshire County Jail and House of Correction.
2. **In-class writing assignments (15 points total):** Over the course of the semester, there will be three (3), randomly occurring, in-class writing assignments. These assignments will focus on the ideas covered over the semester to date (rather than fact memorization). Each writing assignment is worth five (5) points. These assignments CANNOT be made up.
3. **Participation (25 points):** Participation means both attending class and actively participating in discussions. This means you need to do the reading and come to class with questions and comments. Attendance is mandatory. You will receive a progress report on your participation grade about halfway through the semester.
4. **Research Paper (50 points):** Students will develop a research topic over the course of the semester, culminating in a final paper (20 pages). As part of this assignment, students will be responsible for producing a thesis proposal, an annotated bibliography, and a rough draft (in addition to the final paper). The breakdown for each section of this assignment is as follows: Thesis statement (5 points), annotated bibliography (5 points), rough draft (10 points), and the final draft (30 points).

**PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism is taken very seriously. If there is any evidence that your work is not your own, I will pursue the most severe action according to the college policies.

**PAPER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** First, assignments are due in class. Second, I do not accept papers electronically. If you know you will be unable to attend class, I will accept hard copies before class begins (without any penalties), either in person or placed in my mailbox in Morgan Hall. Assignments will lose a point for each day they are late.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Every effort will be made to accommodate students with documented learning disabilities. Please see me *on the first day of class* so that we can address the issue immediately.

**READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:** All of the articles and excerpts are available through E-reserves.

W: September 8<sup>th</sup> [No class, Monday schedule.]

W: September 15<sup>th</sup> [Last day to add/drop courses]

Glaze, Lauren and Maruschak, Laura. 2009. Parents in prison and their children. Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

Harrison, Paige, and Allen Beck. 2006. Prisoners in 2005. Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

Western, Bruce. "Did the prison boom cause the crime to drop?" In Punishment and Inequality in America.

W: September 22<sup>nd</sup>

Holstein, James & Jaber Gubrium 1999. "What Is Family? Further Thoughts on a Social Constructionist Approach". *Marriage and Family Review*, 28 (3/4): 3-20.

Smith, Dorothy, "The Standard North American Family: SNAF as an Ideological Code," *Journal of Family Issues* 14 (1993): 50-65.

Cancian, F. (2008) "From role to self: The emergence of androgynous love in the 20<sup>th</sup> century". In Andrew Cherlin (ed.), *Public and private families: A reader* (pgs. 14-28). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Coontz, S. (2008) "What's love got to do with it?: A brief history of marriage". In Andrew Cherlin (ed.), *Public and private families: A reader* (pgs. 30-35). New York: McGraw-Hill.

W: September 29<sup>th</sup>

**Introduction, Chapters 1-3, and Conclusion.** Kann, Mark. 2005. *Punishment, prisons, and patriarchy: Liberty and power in the early American republic*. New York and London: New York University Press.

W: October 6<sup>th</sup>

Linders, Anulla and Alana Van Gundy-Yoder. 2008. "Gall, Gallantry, and the Gallows: Capital Punishment and the construction of Gender, 1840-1920." *Gender & Society*, 22(3): 324-348.

Sabo, Don, Kupers, Terry, and Willie London. 2001. "Gender and the politics of punishment". In Sabo, Don, Kupers, Terry, and Willie London, Prison Masculinities (p. 3-18).

Acker, Joan. 1990. Hierarchies, jobs, bodies: A theory of gendered organizations. *Gender and Society* 4, (2): 139-58.

Britton, Dana. 1997. Gendered organizational logic: Policy and practice in men's and women's prisons. *Gender & Society* 11(6):976-7818.

W: October 13<sup>th</sup> [Thesis statement for final paper due.]

Western, Bruce and Christopher Wildeman. 2009. The Black family and mass incarceration. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 621: 221-242.

Laub, John, Nagin, Daniel and Robert Sampson. 1998. Trajectories of change in criminal offending: Good marriages and the desistance process. *American Sociological Review*, 63(2):225-238.

Kerley, Kent, Michael Benson, Matthew Lee, Francis Cullen. "Race, Criminal Justice Contact, and Adult Position in the Social Stratification System." *Social Problems*, Vol. 51, No. 4, (Nov., 2004) pp 549-568.

W: October 20<sup>th</sup>

**Introduction and chapters 1-3.** Black, Tim. 2009. When a heart turns rock solid: The lives of three Puerto Rican brothers on and off the streets. Pantheon.

W: October 27<sup>th</sup>

**Chapters 4-7.** Black, Tim. 2009. When a heart turns rock solid: The lives of three Puerto Rican brothers on and off the streets. Pantheon. (~150 pages)

W: November 3<sup>rd</sup> [Annotated bibliography for final paper due.]

**Chapters 8-11.** Black, Tim. 2009. When a heart turns rock solid: The lives of three Puerto Rican brothers on and off the streets. Pantheon. (150 pages)

W: November 10<sup>th</sup> [Off-campus visit.]

There is no reading assigned for this week. Students will meet at the Hampshire County Jail and House of Correction at 2pm. The address is as follows: 205 Rock Hill Road, Northampton, MA 01060. We will discuss the logistics of this trip in class.

W: November 17<sup>th</sup> [Short response paper due.]

Haney, Lynne, and Miranda March. 2003. Married fathers and caring daddies: Welfare reform and the discursive politics of paternity. *Social Problems* 50(4): 461-81.

Wacquant, Loic. 2001. "Deadly Symbiosis: When ghetto and prison meet and mesh." *Punishment & Society*, 3: 95-133.

Hagan, John and Juleigh Petty Coleman. 2001. Returning captives of the American War on drugs: Issues of community and family reentry. *Crime & Delinquency* 47:352-367.

W: November 24<sup>th</sup> [No class, Thanksgiving]

W: December 1<sup>st</sup> [Rough draft of final paper due.]

**Introduction and Chapters 1-3.** Haney, Lynne. 2010. *Offending women: Power, punishment, and the regulation of desire.* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

W: December 8<sup>th</sup>

**Chapters 4-6 and Conclusion.** Haney, Lynne. 2010. *Offending women: Power, punishment, and the regulation of desire.* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

W: December 15<sup>th</sup>

McCorkel, Jill. 2004. Criminally dependent? Gender, punishment, and the rhetoric of welfare reform. *Social Politics* 11(3):386-410.

Comfort, Megan L. 2003. In the tube at San Quentin: The "secondary prisonization" of women visiting inmates. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 32, (1): 77-107.

Roth, Rachel. 2004. "In Search of the State: Who governs prisoners' reproductive rights?" *Social Politics*, vol. 11 (3):411-438.

The final paper is due Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. A hard copy of the paper must be turned into my mailbox in Morgan Hall, by 1pm.