CRIM4 / SOC15 (HSPS) & CR2 (PBS)
Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System

This is a shared Paper with Law – where it is Paper 34 for Part 1B and Part II students.

PAPER GUIDE

Course organiser  Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe, lrg10@cam.ac.uk, 01223 335377, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

Lecturers  Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe lrg10@cam.ac.uk  
Professor Nicola Padfield nmp21@cam.ac.uk  
Dr Justice Tankebe, jt340@cam.ac.uk  
Dr Caroline Lanskey cml29@cam.ac.uk  
Mr Tom Hawker-Dawson tch39@cam.ac.uk 
A. N. Other

Supervision  We operate a centralised supervision system whereby students are allocated to supervisors by the Course Organiser – unless College Directors of Studies have made other arrangements. The allocation will take place before Term starts.

NB. At the time of writing it is expected that all lectures will be pre-recorded on panopto.

Outline of the Course:  Aims and Objectives:

1. To allow students to gain a critical and informed understanding of patterns of crime, pathways into and out of crime, and critical issues regarding law, policy and practice in relation to criminal justice and sentencing.

2. To introduce students to contemporary theoretical debates on the purposes of punishment, and on the aims of specific parts of the criminal justice system, and through this work to enhance students’ ability to handle normative issues in relation to legal and sociological topics more generally, and enable them to assess, in an informed manner, policy proposals from government, pressure groups and others.

3. To introduce students to the reading and understanding of empirical research materials relating to aspects of what is known about what works with offenders (in terms of future behaviour), sentencing, criminal justice, and the penal system in England.
and Wales; and thereby to enable them to appreciate more generally the potential relevance of empirical research in the study of legal systems and social problems in modern societies.

4. To enable students to bring together, in an intellectually coherent way, reading materials and ideas relating to normative issues, sociological understandings of the shape of criminal justice in contemporary society, substantive law, and empirical research studies (i.e. 1, 2 and 3 above).

Syllabus:


2. Routes into the criminal justice system. Policing decisions in regard to stops and searches on the street, diversion, cautions, fixed penalties and the discretion to prosecute; pre-court criminal justice and an introduction to legitimacy (a theme which runs throughout the course).

3. Dealing with offenders. The sentencing framework: law and practice - focusing on fines, community orders, imprisonment (both determinate and life sentences); special sentences for serious and dangerous offenders; ‘ancillary’ orders.

4. Theories of punishment and links with sentencing. What penal theories underpin sentencing? (why do we punish and what are the aims of sentencing?); Deterrence and Incapacitation; Desert; Rehabilitation; Restorative Justice.

5. Justice in Practice 1: Community Penalties. What works with offenders in the community, what is meaningful and other issues relating to community penalties (e.g. the failure of privatisation); the complexities of supervision.

6. Justice in Practice 2: Imprisonment. Offenders in prison and other prison issues (e.g. privatisation, imprisonment rates).


Supervisions: 9 supervisions, plus 1 revision supervision (4 in both the Michaelmas and Lent terms, and 2 in Easter term)

Assessment: 3 hour Exam Paper or online assessment as in June 2020 - to be decided.

Outline of Lectures: see separate attachment
Title of Lecture series: **CRIMINOLOGY, SENTENCING AND THE PENAL SYSTEM**

The **LECTURES** will be presented **online** on Panopto.

**Key Texts:**
Further reading will be given throughout the course, but it may be useful to encourage your departmental and college libraries to ensure that they have the following ebook: *Sentencing and Punishment* (fourth edition) by Susan Easton and Christine Piper (Oxford University Press, 2016); The Oxford Handbook of Criminology (sixth edition) edited by Alison Liebling, Shadd Maruna and Lesley McAra (Oxford University Press, 2017).

**LONG VACATION READING LIST  Summer 2020**

Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System: General

There are many interesting introductory or short books e.g.:

Read widely to think about the context. Here are some ideas, mostly biographical and autobiographical accounts:
- Fox Butterfield *All God’s Children* (1996)
- Ta-Nehisi Coates *Between the World and Me* (2015)
- Erwin James *Redeemable: A Memoir of Darkness and Hope* (2016)
- Helena Kennedy *Eve was shamed: How British Justice is failing women* (2018)
- Ngugi wa Thiong’o *Wrestling with the Devil: A Prison Memoir* (2016)
- John Podmore *Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Why Britain’s Prisons are Failing* (2012)
- Walter Rideau *In the Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Deliverance* (2010)
- Nina Wilde *The Monstering of Myra Hindley* (2016)
- Peter Woolf *The Damage Done* (2008)
Podcasts
- Any criminology-related Audio long read from the Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/news/series/the-audio-long-read
- Ear Hustle - podcast about prison life produced at San Quentin State Prison by current/former inmates and a visual artist who volunteers at the prison. US context. https://www.earhustlesq.com/listen

Blogs / Articles / Youtube Playlists
- British Society of Criminology Blog, BSC: https://thebscblog.wordpress.com/
- Border Criminologies, University of Oxford: https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies
- Equal Justice Initiative – Racial Equality Playlist https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRj35PtXnLs&list=PLSOVnfXPJ2BSpKggUm8iSQXs5-Vtggyi
- ‘Who gets to be afraid in America?’ by Ibram X. Kendi https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/05/ahmaud-arbery/611539/
- David Garland on Penal Populism: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rDo5RSNFJs
- Jogging with Jody: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7UXpT8Za1g
- Crime and Punishment (Channel 4)
- Prison (Channel 4) https://www.channel4.com/programmes/prison

Websites to explore:
Prison Reform Trust: http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/
Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (CCJS): http://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/index.html
Howard League: http://www.howardleague.org/
The Sentencing Council’s website: https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk
Explore thoroughly – play ‘you be the judge’
The Judiciary’s website: http://www.judiciary.gov.uk (especially where they publish Crown Court ‘sentencing remarks’)
Youth Justice Board: http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/yjb

Centre for Justice Innovation: http://www.justiceinnovation.org/our-work

The Sentencing Academy: https://sentencingacademy.org.uk

Other things to do by way of preparation:
- Read newspapers/media reports of sentencing cases
- Visit the local courts to observe justice in the making...(Crown Court and Magistrates’ Courts if in England and Wales, parallel courts if elsewhere).

Loraine Gelsthorpe
July, 2020