PAPER GUIDE  HSPS TRIPOS Part IIB & PBS Part II 2021-22

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
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Lecturers
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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
delivered in person (but there will be a Plan B in place for lectures
on line if need be).

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, discretion to divert people who have offended to out of court options or to prosecute, 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)


9. Justice in Practice 5: Realities, risks and Recall. Early release and parole following custody; resettlement in the community; recall to prison


Supervisions: 9 supervisions, plus 1 revision supervision (4 in both the Michaelmas and Lent terms, and 2 in Easter term). 10 supervisions in total.

PLEASE NOTE – unlike some HSPS and PBS supervisions students are not expected to produce an essay for each supervision; rather, there is an expectation of two essays per term + other supervision tasks (e.g. a five minute presentation on a criminal justice issue). In the Easter Term students often write essay plans which supervisors are willing to read and comment on.
**Assessment:** Online assessment as in June 2021 - to be confirmed.

**Outline of Lectures:** see separate attachment

**Title of Lecture series:** CRIMINOLOGY, SENTENCING AND THE PENAL SYSTEM

The plan is to give the LECTURES in person, but there will be a Plan B which will involve online lectures (if needed).

**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:

**LONG VACATION READING LIST**  Summer 2021

**Paper 34 – Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System and Soc 15 & Crim 4 (HSPS) and CR2 (PBS)**

Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System

There are many interesting introductory or short books e.g.:
- Farrall, Goldson, Loader & Dockley (eds) *Justice and Penal Reform: Re-shaping the Penal Landscape* (2016)

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
- 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 Episode 60]

Blogs / Articles / Youtube Playlists
- British Society of Criminology Blog, BSC: [https://thebscblog.wordpress.com/]
- Equal Justice Initiative – Racial Equality Playlist [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRj35PtXnLs&list=PLSOVnfXPJ2BSpKggUm8iSQXs5-VtggpYi]
- ‘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/-]
- 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’)
- Runnymede Trust: [https://www.runnymedetrust.org]
- Ministry of Justice: [https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice]
- 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 – subject).

COURSE READING LIST for 2021-22
In addition to the fortnightly supervision sheets which will be sent to you by your allocated supervisor, you may find the following reading list useful. (There is no one text which covers the entire course I’m afraid).

Recommended textbooks
OR


Recommended Reading


Loraine Gelsthorpe (Course Convenor) lrg10@cam.ac.uk

July, 2021