

HSPS TRIPOS Part IIB 2019-20

SOC 15: Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System

This Paper is also **CRIM 4** as part of the PART II Tripos in Sociology and Criminology

(The Paper is a borrowed Paper from Law, Paper 34. The Paper is also borrowed by Psychology and Behavioural Sciences)

Paper Guide

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Lecturers Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe
Dr Antje du Bois-Pedain
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Dr Caroline Lanskey
Professor Alison Liebling
Dr Justice Tankebe
Professor P-O Wikstrom

Supervisors The Institute of Criminology operates a centralized supervision system which means that students are allocated to a supervisor at the beginning of term by the **Course Convenor, Professor Gelsthorpe**, unless, of course, Directors of Studies have made alternative arrangements.

Supervisions

There are ten supervisions for this course (following the syllabus as below). There will be four supervisions in each of the Michaelmas and Lent Terms and two in the Easter term (the final supervision focuses on revision). Typically, students are required to produce a minimum of two essays each terms, plus a further essay/essay plans in the Easter Term. Unlike some courses, there is no expectation that an essay will be produced for each supervision. Supervisions are normally in groups of two, three or four students.

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).

Outline of the course: Syllabus

1. *Crime and punishment in modern Britain.* Characteristics of modern Britain. Trends in crime and data sources. Is crime going up or down?
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. Early release and parole; 'through the Gate' issues: resettlement; recall.
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. *Pathways into and out of crime*. *Pathways in*: i) the causes of crime (including situational factors and processes); ii) criminal careers (including age-related crime patterns); *Pathways out*: i) natural resilience and protective factors, ii) crime and the life-course, iii) individual and family factors, iv) community and situational factors. Desistance theories.
6. *'What Works' & Dealing with specific groups of offenders*. What works with offenders in the community and other issues relating to community penalties (e.g. privatisation).
7. *Dealing with specific groups of offenders*: What works with BAME offenders and issues of fairness and justice; female offenders. What works with women and issues relating to fairness and justice.
8. *Dealing with specific groups of offenders*. Young offenders. What works with young offenders and issues relating to fairness and justice.
9. *Dealing with specific groups of offenders*. Offenders in prison and other prison issues (e.g. privatisation, imprisonment rates)
10. *Revision of the above topics*. Developments and criminal justice issues in modern Britain.

BACKGROUND READING/Vacation Reading

Supervision sheets will contain guided reading for supervisions and further reading, with questions to consider for discussion and possible essay titles. The supervision sheets are produced by individual supervisors.

- Roberts, *Criminal Justice. A Very Short Introduction*. (Oxford University Press, 2015)
- Dockley and Loader (eds), *The Penal Landscape. The Howard League Guide to Criminal Justice in England and Wales* (2013)
- Farrall, Goldson, Loader & Dockley (eds) *Justice and Penal Reform* (Routledge/Howard League for Penal Reform, 2016)
- Canton (2017) *Why Punish?* (Palgrave)
- Podmore, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Why Britain's Prisons are Failing* (2012)
- David Garland on Penal Populism (using the Californian 3 strikes law as an example): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rDo5RSNFJs>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UXpT8Za1g> Jogging with Jody

Biographical and autobiographical accounts:

- Erwin James, *Redeemable: A Memoir of Darkness and Hope* (2016)

- Fox Butterfield, *All God's Children* (1996)
- Ruth Wyner, *From the Inside: Life in a Women's Prison* (2003)
- Peter Woolf, *The Damage Done* (2008)
- Walter Rideau, *In the Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Deliverance* (2010)

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: <http://sentencingcouncil.judiciary.gov.uk>

The Judiciary's website: <http://www.judiciary.gov.uk>

Ministry of Justice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice> (follow 'You the Judge')

Youth Justice Board: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/yjb>

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

Other things to do by way of preparation:

Read newspapers

Visit the local courts to observe justice in the making...(Crown Court and Magistrates' Courts if in England and Wales, parallel courts if elsewhere).

Past Exam Papers can be found on the HSPS website. The Examiner's Report for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 can also be found on the HSPS website.

All lecture handouts are placed on the Law Faculty Moodle site for CSPS (Paper 34). All students from HSPS will be given access to this moodle site as soon as we know that they are taking the course. We are normally sent a list by HSPS at the beginning of term; otherwise please let Loraine Gelsthorpe know that you are taking the course and she will ensure that you have access to moodle.

SOC 15: CRIMINOLOGY, SENTENCING AND THE PENAL SYSTEM 2019 – 2020

Prof. L. R. Gelsthorpe*, Dr A. du Bois-Pedain, Prof. A. Liebling, Dr C. Lanskey, Dr J. Tankebe, Mr T. Hawker-Dawson, Prof. P-O Wikstrom, *Convenor

MICHAELMAS TERM 2019

TOPICS listed in the order in which they will be covered	NAME OF LECTURER covering topic	Lecture numbers	Dates
<i>Introductory Lecture: Course Convenor:</i> What the course is about. Crime and punishment in modern Britain. Characteristics of modern Britain. Trends in crime and data sources.	Prof. L. Gelsthorpe	1, 2	10, 11 Oct
<i>Routes into the Criminal Justice System</i> 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).	Dr J. Tankebe	3, 4	17, 18 Oct
<i>Dealing with Offenders</i> 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. What sentences mean in practice.	Mr T. Hawker Dawson	5, 6, 7,8	24, 25, 31 Oct, 1 Nov
<i>Dealing with Offenders: Early release and parole; through the Gate:</i> resettlement; recall.	Mr T. Hawker Dawson	9, 10	7, 8 Nov
<i>Theories of Punishment and links with sentencing</i> What penal theories underpin sentencing? (what are the aims of sentencing); Deterrence and Incapacitation; Desert.	Dr A. du Bois-Pedain	11, 12, 13, 14	14, 15, 21, 22 Nov
<i>Theories of Punishment and links with sentencing</i> Rehabilitation. Restorative Justice.	Prof. L. Gelsthorpe	15, 16	28, 29 Nov

LENT TERM 2020

TOPICS Listed in the order in which they will be covered	NAME OF LECTURER Covering topic	Lecture numbers	Dates
<i>Pathways into Crime:</i> The causes of crime (including situational factors and processes); criminal careers (including age-related crime patterns)	Prof. P-O Wikstrom	17, 18	16, 17 Jan
<i>Pathways out of crime:</i> i) Crime and the life-course, ii) individual and family factors, iii) community and situational factors.	Dr C. Lanskey	19, 20	23, 24 Jan
<i>What Works & Dealing with Specific Groups of Offenders:</i> What works with offenders in the community and other issues relating to community penalties (e.g. privatisation)	Prof. L. Gelsthorpe	21, 22	30, 31 Jan
<i>Dealing with Specific Groups of Offenders:</i> What works with BME offenders and issues of fairness and justice	Prof. L. Gelsthorpe	23, 24	6, 7 Feb
<i>Dealing with Specific Groups of Offenders:</i> Female Offenders. What works with women and issues relating to fairness and justice.	Prof. L. Gelsthorpe	25, 26	13, 14 Feb
<i>Dealing with Specific Groups of Offenders:</i> Young Offenders. What works with young offenders and issues relating to fairness and justice.	Prof. L. Gelsthorpe	27, 28	20, 21 Feb
<i>Dealing with Specific Groups of Offenders:</i> Offenders in prison and other prison issues (e.g. privatisation)	Prof. A. Liebling	29, 30, 31	27, 28 Feb 5 March
<i>REVIEW Lecture</i>	Prof. L. Gelsthorpe	32	6 March

EASTER TERM 2020

	NAME OF LECTURER covering topic	Lecture numbers	Dates
<i>Critical Issues: Criminal justice issues in late modern Britain: Recent Developments</i>	Prof. L. Gelsthorpe	33 Review Lecture	24 April
Critical Issues in the Delivery of Criminal Justice: Recent Developments. Concluding lecture	Prof. L. Gelsthorpe	34 Review Lecture	30 April

AdB-P	4
LRG*	15
AL	3
CML	2
TH-D	6
JT	2
POW	2
Total lectures	34