

History 426 (Fall 2019)
Professor Shoemaker

Lectures: **T-Th 1:00-2:30**
Office hours: **T-Thur: 11:00-12:00**

History of Punishment

Description:

Among the most evocative aspects of human history is the way we have fined, shamed, exiled, imprisoned, pained, maimed, dismembered or killed those deemed to be in violation of the laws of gods and men. This course examines punishment across a vast range of historical traditions, examining how wrongdoing and punishment have been figured in law, literature, art and philosophy. Through the semester we will examine ancient, medieval and modern traditions.

Assessments:

Over the course of the semester there will be weekly short reading responses. These are due on Fridays. The weekly short answer responses will account for 36% of your grade. Two midterm examinations and a final exam will account for 50% of your final grade. A primary source analysis and a secondary source analysis will account for the final 14% of your total grade.

The Midterm exams are October 26th and November 16th.

The Final Exam is December 16th

Readings: The required readings will be posted on the Canvas page. It is essential that you stay current on the readings and assignments. Please consult the Canvas page for the readings that correspond to the weekly themes and topics.

Disability Statement: UW-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. If you need accommodations, please let me know by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. I will work either directly with you or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Academic Integrity: UW-Madison takes academic integrity very seriously, and no academic misconduct will be tolerated in this course. Academic misconduct can assume many forms, so make sure you know what it is and how to avoid it. (See <https://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/academic-integrity/>)

Grading Scale: A (92.5+); AB (87.5-92.4); B (82.5-87.4); BC (77.5-82.4); C (69.5-77.4); D (60-69.4); F (Below 60)

Course Credit:

The credit standard for this course is met by an expectation of a total of 135 hours (45 hours per credit) of student engagement with the course learning activities, which include lectures, readings, written responses, exams, as well as other student work described in the syllabus.

Assignments: All assignments for this course will be found on Canvas and are to be submitted through the course's Canvas page. This includes all weekly assignments and reading responses, as well as the midterm and final examinations. It is essential that you contact me as soon as possible in the event you need to make up an assignment. Late assignments will be accepted for reduced credit. Assignments completed after the Canvas page has closed must be emailed to the professor.

Learning Outcomes: A detailed description of learning outcomes and a course map for each day of this course is provided at the end of this syllabus, after the list of course themes.

Course Modality: This is an in-person lecture course.

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Schedule of Themes

(Please consult the Canvas page Modules for the corresponding reading assignments for each day)

Week 1: Introduction

September 7 Introductory Remarks; Announcements

Week 2: The Birth of Humankind as a Great Crime

September 12

Crime, Punishment, and the Birth of the Greek Polis

September 14

Sin, Punishment and the Biblical Fall

Week 3: The Social Realities of Punishment in the Ancient World

September 19

The Social World of Prometheus

September 21

The Many Meanings of Punishment in the Ancient World

Week 4: The Turn to Christian Discipline

September 26

The Roman Aristocratic World and the New Religion

September 28

Conflict and Punishment in the Post-Roman World

Week 5: The Blood Feud in Early Medieval Europe

October 3

Revenge as a Medium Good

October 5

Egil's Saga

Week 6: Sanctuary and Feud

October 10

Sanctuary in the Early Middle Ages

October 12

Sanctuary and the English Common Law

Week 7: Ecclesiastical Punishments

October 17

Curses and Maledictions

October 19

Excommunication

Week 8: Dante's Divine Comedy

October 24

The Inferno and the Purgatorio

October 26 **1st Mid-Term Exam**

Week 9: Outlaws and Outlawry

October 31

Administering Outlaws

November 2

Popular Perceptions of Outlaws

Week 10: Pre-modern Executions

November 7

The Body on the Gallows

November 9

The Decline of Public Executions

Week 11: Penal Transportation

November 14

Transporting Bodies

November 16 **2nd Mid-Term Exam**

Week 12: The Birth of the Prison

November 21

The Origins of the Modern Penitentiary

November 23 Thanksgiving

Week 13: The Birth of the Prison

November 28

Continued - The Origins of the Modern Penitentiary

November 30

The Prison

Week 14: The Death Penalty in the Modern World

December 5

Execution as a Constitutional Problem

December 7

The Decline of Capital Punishment in the US

Week 15: Conclusion

December 12 Wrap up

Learning Outcomes

History/Legal Studies 426 (The History of Punishment) is a medium to high enrollment, upper-level course that primarily serves History and Legal Studies Majors. This course satisfies the capstone requirement for the Legal Studies Program. This course leads students through the textual, translation, and interpretative issues that arise in the course material.

General Learning Outcomes:

- Read and evaluate a variety of materials to determine their origins, perspective, usefulness, and reliability
- Analyze influences that shape historical narratives and debates across genres and media
- Explain complex changes over time at different levels of scale
- Craft clear, persuasive prose
- Discuss and distill complex points through lucid verbal communication
- Engage with humility and empathy, and respect those with differing views
- Recognize multiple ways of being in the world, and how what may seem natural in a society has been built over decades of accumulated human actions
- Break down stereotypes and misconceptions through rigorous analysis