

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Department of Sociology

Selected Topics in Criminology:
Criminology and Genocide: Power, Terror and the Camps

Sociology 7450 (T01)
(Term 1, 2007)
Thursday, 1-4pm
335 Isbister

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Credit hours: 3

Course Objectives:

In this course concentration camps are treated as liminal spaces of punishment, order, terror and extermination. We will examine the extent to which Nazi concentration and death camps provide lessons for understanding other “carceral” institutions -- e.g., prisons, ghettos, reserves, residential schools and slums. As well, we will assess the degree to which these institutions share common rationalities of governance and ordering, but also the significant ways in which they differ from one another. Finally, questions will be raised about the “criminality” of concentration camps and other forms of carceral space. In particular, we will discuss the fact that these spaces are employed as tools for containing and controlling “dangerous” individuals and groups yet are themselves arenas of intense danger and, oftentimes, terror.

Readings

From the Bookstore:

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Wolfgang Sofsky, *The Order of Terror* (several used copies available from Amazon.ca)

Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved*

Giorgio Agamban, *Remnants of Auschwitz*

Selections of other assigned readings will be made available in the photocopier room.

Assignments and Grades:

Participation: You are expected to complete the required readings prior to the class so you can participate intelligently in the discussion. Each week one student will be responsible for presenting the readings to the class (approximately 15 minutes) and facilitating discussion for the first half of the class. These presentations are intended as an opportunity for you to improve your teaching and conference presentation skills. Therefore, your presentation(s) should be

structured around a guiding theme or thesis statement and questions should be prepared for class discussion based on this theme/thesis.

Participation grades are assessed based on the combination of your in-class participation and your seminar presentation(s). Missed classes, failure to read the assigned texts, and disruptive or negative classroom behaviour will all result in lower participation marks. Class participation is worth 25% of your final grade.

Critical Summaries: These are two-page critical commentaries or analytical synopses of weekly readings. They will be evaluated and commented on for their pertinence to the texts addressed and their critical insight. A minimum of 5 must be handed in during the semester, at least one per month (you can opt to write more, although you may not write more than *one* per week. Critical Summaries will not be accepted after November 30, 2007). This assignment is worth 25% of the final grade.

Essay(s): You have the choice of writing either two short 9-12 page essays (one due October 15th the other at the end of the term), or one long term paper, 20-25 pages, due December 10, 2007. The essay(s) will be on a topic selected by the student, but must relate to themes discussed in the course. The essay(s) assignment is worth 50% of your final grade. (Note: students who opt to write the long term paper can choose to hand in an outline which will count for up to 10% of the total essay grade – see instructor to discuss this option). Late essays will be penalized 2% (out of 100%) per day unless an extension has been obtained from the professor prior to the due date.

Grading:

A+	90-100	Exceptional
A	80-89	Excellent
B+	76-79	Very Good
B	70-75	Good
C+	66-69	Satisfactory
C	60-65	Adequate
D	50-59	Marginal
F	49 & below	Failure

Academic Honesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on ‘Examinations: Personations’ (S. 7.2, p. 28) and ‘Plagiarism and Cheating’ (S. 7.1, p. 28) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Course Outline:

Part I: Order, Terror and Punishment:

Week 1: Introduction - No Readings

Weeks 2 and 3: Discipline and the Prison:

Readings:

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Week 2: pp 104-194

Week 3: pp 195-308

Weeks 4 and 5: The Camps: Absolute Power and Terror

Readings:

Wolfgang Sofsky, *The Order of Terror*

Week 4: pp. 3-43, 47-54, 65-81

Week 5: pp. 97-129, 214-275

Films: *Verdict on Auschwitz*, parts 1 and 2

Weeks 6 and 7: The Camps: Survival and Witness

Readings:

Week 6: Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved*, Chapters 2-5

Week 7: Paul Martin Neurath “Why Don’t They Hit Back?” (pp. 245-267) [Copy Room].

Rudolph Höss “The Final Solution of the Jewish Question in the Concentration Camp Auschwitz” (pp. 27-47) [Copy Room]

Film: *Verdict on Auschwitz*, part 3.

Weeks 8 and 9: The Camps as a State of Exception: Bare Life

Readings:

Giorgio Agamben, *Remnants of Auschwitz*

Week 8: pp. 11-86

Week 9: pp. 87-171

Film: *The Grey Zone*

Week 10: Other Camps: Cambodia and Bosnia

Readings:

Alex Hinton, *Why Do They Kill*, Chapter 5 [Copy Room]

Isabelle Wesselingsh and Arnaud Vaulerin, *Raw Memory*, pp. 19-65 [Copy Room].

Part II: Other Carceral Spaces

Week 11: The Ghetto

Readings:

Loic Wacqaunt, “Deadly Symbiosis” and “Ghetto” [Copy Room]

Week 12: The Residential School and the Reserve

Readings:

Jeffrey York, *The Dispossessed*, pp. 1-21 and 54-87 [Copy Room]

John S. Milloy, *A National Crime*, pp. 51-75 [Copy Room]

Week 13: Slums, Refugee Camps, and Guantanamo

Readings:

Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums*, Chapter 2 [Copy Room]

Jacob Stevens, "Prisons of the Stateless" [Copy Room]

Bryan S. Turner, "The Enclave Society" [Copy Room].

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is Wednesday, November 14, 2007.