

CULT 2011 PRISONS, PUNISHMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 102036

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Description The demise of corporal punishment and the regular use of imprisonment are defining features of control in modern states. This unit provides an historical and sociological examination of the models, practices and justifications for punishment and incarceration. It begins with an overview of early liberal notions of the social contract, the modern movement away from corporal punishment towards incarceration, and criminology's emphasis on treatment, reform and rehabilitation. Following from this, the unit explores the development of probation and parole systems, decarceration, community corrections, mass imprisonment, and the contemporary control of risk and 'dangerous' populations. These themes are considered through the role of intersecting structural factors such as age, gender, sexuality, social class, racial/ethnic identity and disability, and the impact of imprisonment and corrections on different individuals and groups.

School Social Sciences

Discipline Criminology

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your HECS Band contribution amount via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 2 subject

Equivalent Subjects CULT 2010 - Prisons and Punishment

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in written form the relationship between punishment and society, the history of the prison and its relationship to modernism;
2. Critically analyse how social practices of punishment affect certain sectors of the population, including highly marginalised groups;
3. Describe the impact of contemporary issues in public policy and penalty, including community-based measures, private prisons, the dispersal of punishment, restorative and therapeutic justice and vengeance;
4. Critically assess the contributions of philosophical approaches to contemporary debates about punishment goals and practices.

Subject Content

Punishment and criminal justice
 Philosophical justifications for punishment
 The rise of the prison
 Juvenile detention and punishment of youth
 Class, race, disadvantage and imprisonment
 Gender and punishment
 Non-custodial penalties and regulatory justice
 Penal reform, activism and prison politics
 Prison policies and correctional programmes

Decarceration and recarceration
 Privatisation of prisons and corrections
 Risk, fear and 'dangerousness'?

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Item	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task
Quizzes	30 minutes	20	N	Individual
Reflection	1,200 words	35	N	Individual
Essay	1,500 words	45	N	Individual

Teaching Periods