

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**  
**SOC 357 01/02 Justice and Society**  
Syllabus Fall 2005

**Instructor:** Susan T. Krumholz, JD, Ph.D. M/W/F 9am and noon  
**Office:** Group 1, Rm. 392H, ext. 8370 Gr. I Rm. 102  
**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday 10-12, or by appt.  
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**Course Description:**

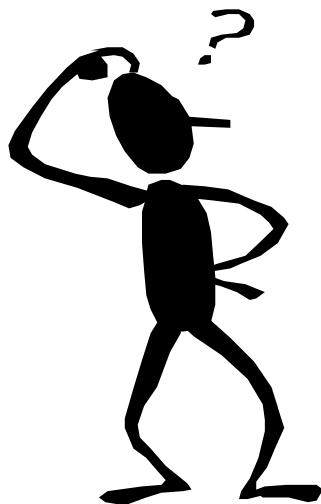
The focus of this course is on developing an understanding of justice both in theory and in application. We will begin by studying theorists' construal of justice and the relationship of justice to society. In the process it is expected that we will begin to refine our own understanding of justice. This will provide us with a framework for applying concepts of justice to our notion of punishment.

**Required Texts:**

Foucault, Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison  
McEleney and McEleney, Penology, Justice and Liberty  
Solomon and Murphy, editors, What Is Justice?  
Zehr, Doing Life  
Zehr, Transcending

**Expected Outcomes:**

- 1) Working knowledge of major theories of justice.
- 2) Understanding the history and implications of punishment.
- 3) Ability to critically evaluate theories.
- 4) Ability to translate a theory into a viable policy.
- 5) Improve student's ability to communicate—using both written and oral models to clearly present ideas.



### **Course Requirements:**

Course requirements include readings, class participation, participation on a class website, short weekly papers, and two more significant assignments which will effectively constitute a midterm and a final.

### ***CLASS***

Students are expected to attend and participate. The class is conducted in a manner which invites students to explain what they understand; to suggest what a theory offers and what it lacks; to question the readings, the professor, one another; and seek ways to apply theories to real life situations. Active participation is expected. You are expected to complete the readings.

Attendance is not mandatory, but is expected. Failure to attend regularly WILL negatively impact your grade.

### ***CLASS PREPARATION***

Reading assignments for the week should be completed for class on Monday, unless otherwise instructed. Mondays will be primarily dedicated to working with small groups to further your understanding of the readings. Conversations will be guided by a series of questions or arguments provided by the professor. Your preparation and input will be vital to your group.

## **WEEKLY PAPERS**

In addition to the assigned class readings, each week you will select (at least) one story from each of the Zehr books (Doing Life and Transcending). You will write a short report (1-2 pages) describing the stories and relating them to the week's work (readings and class conversations) and your own evolving theory of justice.

Papers are due in class on Mondays (exception being Columbus day when they will be due 10/12). Late papers will not be accepted for any reason.

\*You may email me your paper. Emailed papers will ONLY be accepted as follows: a) received by the time class starts, b) sent as an attachment (not in the text), c) in MWord (.doc, not .wps or .rft), and d) properly labeled to include your last name, class and section number and assignment (ex. Krumholz.35702.week6.doc).

Papers may also be submitted via the website. All the instructions above apply.

## **WEBSITE**

A course website has been established. The website contains course essentials, as well as links to valuable and interesting resources and arenas for discussions on related topics. Students should review the website early as it will be used for group conversations, supplemental lectures and assignments.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments will be announced at least two weeks prior to their being due. Due dates will be strictly enforced. For instructions about electronic submission, see above.\*

## **Grading:**

- 30% class participation and group work
- 30% weekly papers
- 40% assignments (20% each)

## Outcome Criteria:

An "A" represents:

- \*Having completed all assignments in a timely manner.
- \*Having demonstrated: 1) a clear understanding of the theories; 2) the ability to distinguish between theories by recognizing their philosophical underpinnings; 3) the ability to suggest viable social policy based on a theory.
- \*Presenting original written work that is clear and grammatically correct; with proper spelling and work usage and proper citations.
- \*Attending and participating in class on a consistent basis; making valuable contributions to classroom discussion.

A "B" represents:

- \*Having completed all assignments.
- \*Having demonstrated a working knowledge of the theories presented; the ability to make policy suggestions based on a theory.
- \*Presenting original written work that is easy to follow; showing improvement in the attention paid to matters of grammar, word usage, and format.
- \*Attending class on a regular basis, and making occasional contributions to ongoing discussions.

A "C" represents:

- \*Having completed all written assignments, and substantially fulfilling all peripheral assignments.
- \*Having demonstrated a basic understanding of the categories of theories discussed; knowing what distinguishes a biological theory from a sociological theory, for instance; recognizing the difference between primary and secondary sources in reporting.
- \*Presenting original work that is comprehensible. Showing a willingness to work to improve writing skills.
- \*Attending class on a regular basis.

**AMENDED Course Outline:**

In addition to the readings listed below, you will be expected to read at least one story from each of the Howard Zehr books each week.

**I. FOUNDATIONS OF JUSTICE**

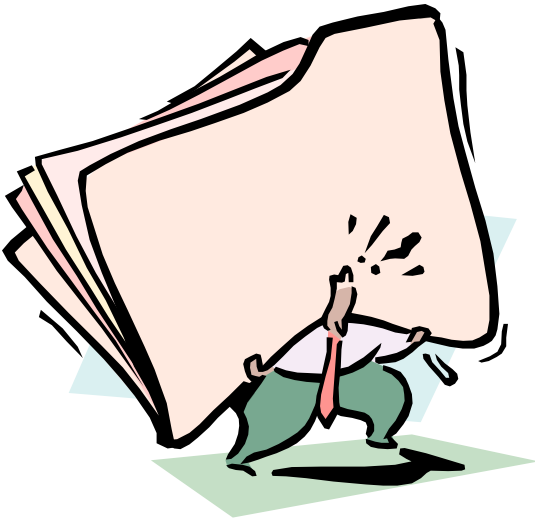
Week One - 9/9      **Readings:**      Solomon & Murphy, eds., Introduction and Part I, pp. 3-11

Week Two - 9/12      **Readings:**      Solomon & Murphy, eds., Part I, pp. 13-58  
McEleney, Chapter 1

**II. THEORIES OF JUSTICE**

Week Three - 9/19      **Readings:**      Solomon & Murphy, eds., Part II, pp. 59-99

Week Four - 9/26      **Readings:**      Solomon & Murphy, eds., Part II, pp. 100-125  
Foucault, Part One, Chapter 1, pp. 3-31

**III. APPLICATIONS OF JUSTICE THEORY**

Week Five - 10/3      **Readings:**      Solomon & Murphy, eds., Part III, pp. 127-165

Week Six - 10/12      **Readings:**      Solomon & Murphy, eds., Part III,  
pp. 166-204

#### IV. JUSTICE AND PUNISHMENT

Week Seven - 10/17 **Readings:** Solomon & Murphy, eds., Part IV, pp. 205-220  
Foucault, Part One, Chapter 2, pp. 32-69

Week Eight - 10/24 **Readings:** Solomon & Murphy, eds., Part IV, pp. 221-250  
Foucault, Part Two, Chapter 1, pp. 73-103

**Assignment #1 Due 10/24**

Week Nine - 10/31 **Readings:** Solomon & Murphy, eds., Part IV, pp. 251-278  
Foucault, Part Two, Chapter 2, pp. 104-131

Week Ten - 11/7 **Readings:** Foucault, Part Three, Chapter 3, pp. 195-208  
McEleney, Chapter 2

Week Eleven - 11/14 **Readings:** Foucault, Part Four, Chapter 1, pp. 231-256

Week Twelve - 11/21 **Readings:** McEleney, Chapters 3 and 4

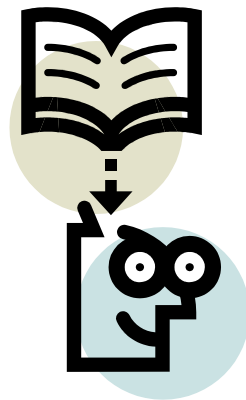
Week Thirteen - 11/28 **Readings:** Foucault, Part Four, Chapters 2 and 3

#### V. JUSTICE REVISITED

Week Fourteen - 12/5 **Readings:** Solomon & Murphy, eds., Part V, pp. 279-345

**Assignment #2 Due 12/5**

Week Fifteen - 12/12 **Readings:** McEleney, Chapter 5



**All readings should be completed by the date noted, unless instructed otherwise. Dates are tentative and subject to change at professor's discretion.**