

CULT 3025 PRISONS, PUNISHMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 102711

Coordinator Tyler Cawthray ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Tyler Cawthray/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Tyler%20Cawthray/))

Description The demise of corporal punishment and the rise of incarceration are defining features of control in modern states. This subject 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 a subsequent welfare oriented emphasis on treatment, reform and rehabilitation. Following from this, the subject 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 an intersectional analysis of structural factors such as age, gender, sexuality, social class, racial/ethnic identity and the impact of imprisonment and corrections on different individuals and groups. This subject pays particular attention to the over-representation of Indigenous populations in Australian prisons.

School Social Sciences

Discipline Criminology

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

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

Level Undergraduate Level 3 subject

Incompatible Subjects CULT 2011 - Prisons Punishment and Criminal Justice (Level 2)

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate 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 the law and order driven imperatives of retribution 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: Indigenous over-representation
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.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Proposal	300 words	20	N	Individual	N
Essay	1,500 words	45	N	Individual	N
Report	1,200 words	35	N	Individual	N

Teaching Periods

WSU Online TRI-1 (2025)

Wsu Online

Online

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=CULT3025_25-OT1_OW_2#subjects)

Spring (2025)

Penrith (Kingswood)

On-site

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Liverpool

On-site

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Online

Online

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WSU Online TRI-3 (2025)

Wsu Online

Online

Subject Contact Rosalind Priestman ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rosalind Priestman/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rosalind%20Priestman/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=CULT3025_25-OT3_OW_2#subjects)

Sydney City Campus - Term 3 (2025)

Sydney City

On-site

Subject Contact Alan Nixon ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Alan Nixon/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Alan%20Nixon/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=CULT3025_25-SC3_SC_1#subjects)

Summer (2025)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

On-site

Subject Contact Shima Shahbazi ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Shima Shahbazi/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Shima%20Shahbazi/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=CULT3025_25-SUM_PS_1#subjects)