Disability Services
Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform me as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/.

Senior Seminar: Incarceration
WGSS 4575
Stillman Hall 0240
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:35-10:55am

Professor Mary Thomas
1124 Derby Hall
614-247-8222
thomas.1672@osu.edu
Winter office hours: Tuesdays 2:30pm-3:30pm and by appointment

Description
This course explores the experiences of women and girls in the US prison system, with particular focus on why and how girls and women offend, how they are treated by the justice system, their experiences of incarceration, their mental health needs, and the challenges they face on release. We will discuss systematic racism, racial identity and segregation in prison, sexual practices in prison, the sexualization by prison staff of women and girls, and the importance of place and age in encounters with the US justice system. The course ends with a consideration of feminist responses to incarceration, especially by prison abolitionists.

Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism is the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own. You must acknowledge others’ work when you quote them or paraphrase their ideas and words. All cases of suspected plagiarism, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). If you have questions about this or other rules of conduct for students, see the student affairs webpage concerning code of conduct at http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.
Readings
• I ordered the two books you will need to purchase at SBX exclusively. You might be able to find a used copy of the Schaffner book online. SBX is located at 1806 N High Street, 614-291-9528.
  o *The Story Within Us: Women Prisoners Reflect on Reading*, by Meg Sweeney. University of Illinois Press, 2012. New price, $25.00 paperback. This just came out in September, so there aren’t many used copies.
• Other readings listed are available on Carmen.

Course requirements and Grades

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Exam 1</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>2. Exam 2</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>3. Paper total</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>4. Participation</td>
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• **Exams.** The exams are take home, and will consist of 2 essay questions based on course materials and readings, discussions, and lectures; each will constitute 25% of your final grade for the course. In addition to being tested on the content of these materials, you should be ready to reflect on how they have informed, challenged, transformed, or enhanced your awareness about themes covered in class.

• **Paper.** You are free to choose a topic for the research paper from course topics. You must submit a research proposal and have your paper idea approved by week 5 (February 7, 200 words). The paper is due the last day of class, April 18. Papers should be at least 8 pages but no more than 10 pages and should have 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spacing, and be adequately cited (bibliography should not count in the page count). You are encouraged to supplement your text with tables, charts, or graphs. I will give more information on the paper in class. The grade breakdown for the paper is as follows: Abstract 5%; Annotated bib 5%; Final draft 20%.

• **Participation.** The quality of your learning experience will be heavily reliant on your thoughtful and regular participation. Please arrive promptly, complete readings before class meetings, participate actively in discussions, and provide thoughtful engagement with lectures, readings, and other class materials. Excessive absence will result in a failing participation grade (no more than 3 missed classes). There may also be the occasional pop quiz to keep you on track with your reading.
Class schedule and readings

Please note:
• Readings are to be completed for the class period for which they are assigned.

Week 1.
Tuesday, January 8. Introduction to the course.

Thursday, January 10. Understanding the prison industrial complex
• Adam Gopnik, “The caging of America.” *The New Yorker* Jan 30, 1012

Week 2.
Tuesday, January 15. Mass incarceration contextualized

Thursday, January 17. Women and incarceration introduced

Week 3.
Tuesday, January 22. Research paper instructions.

Tuesday, January 24.
• Lisa Pasko 2008, “The wayward girl revisited: understanding the gendered nature of juvenile justice and delinquency” *Sociology Compass* 2/3: 821-836

Week 4.
Tuesday, January 29. Doing research in a girls’ prison: examples from my work.
• Start reading Laurie Schaffner’s *Girls in Trouble with the Law*.

Thursday, January 31.
• *Girls in Trouble with the Law*: read to page 77.

Week 5.
Tuesday, February 5.
• *Girls in Trouble with the Law*: finish the book.

Thursday, February 7. *Girl Trouble* (74 min)
Paper proposals due today.

Week 6.
Tuesday, February 12. Girls’ sexuality
• Lisa Pasko 2010, “Damaged daughters: the history of girls’ sexuality and the juvenile justice system” *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 100(3): 1099-1130
Thursday, February 14. Sexuality con’t.
Exam 1 handed out.

**Week 7.**
Tuesday, February 19. **No class: finish your exams.**

Thursday, February 21. In class video: In class video: *Girls on the Wall.*
Exam 1 due at the *beginning* of class.

**Week 8.**
Tuesday, February 14. What is resistance in prison?

Thursday, February 16. Resistance con’t
In class video: Mo’Nique: *I Coulda Been Your Cellmate* (excerpts)

**Week 9.**
Tuesday, February 26. Life narrative.
*The Story Within Us*

Thursday, February 28. *The Story Within Us*

**Week 10.**
Tuesday, March 5. *The Story Within Us*
*Beautiful Sentence* (20 min)

Thursday, March 7. Detention and deportation of undocumented migrants.
• Anonymous 2009/2010, “Some barriers detained migrant women face” *Social Justice*

**Week 11. Spring Break**

**Week 12.**
Tuesday, March 19. Workshop research papers.
*Annotated bibliography due: peer reviews in class.*
Thursday, March 21. Transgender experiences in prison
• Wesley Ware, “Rounding up the homosexuals” in Captive Genders: Transembodiment and the prison industrial complex, edited by E Stanley and N Smith, 2011 (AK Press)
• Kristopher Shelley “Krystal”, “Krystal is Kristopher and vice versa”, in Captive Genders

Week 13.
Tuesday, March 26.
   In class video: Cruel and unusual: transgender women in prison (63 min) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Yzy8oh5Fw0

Thursday, March 28. No class.

Week 14.
Tuesday, April 2. The role of feminism in developing the penal state.
   • Marie Gottschalk, “Not the usual suspects: feminists, women’s groups, and the anti-rape movement,” in her The Prison and the Gallows.

Thursday, April 4. In class discussion.
   • Marie Gottschalk, “The battered women’s movement and the development of penal policy,” in her The Prison and the Gallows.

Week 15. No classes, I have a conference.

Week 16.
Tuesday, April 16. Abolition.
   • S. Lambie, “Transforming carceral logics: 10 reasons to dismantle the prison industrial complex through queer/trans analysis and action”, in Captive Genders
   • Angela Davis, Are prisons obsolete? Selections to be determined.
      Exam 2 handed out.

Thursday, April 18. Debating abolition: in class discussion.
   No new reading but be ready to talk about Lambie and Davis.
   Research papers due.

EXAM 2 DUE MONDAY, APRIL 22, BY NOON.