

**Centre of Comparative Politics and Political Theory**  
**School of International Studies**  
**Jawaharlal Nehru University**

Course	PhD
Course No.	CP 655N
Course Title	<b>Political Economy of the Modern Prison</b>
Course Type	<b>OPTIONAL</b>
Semester	<b>WINTER</b>
Course Teacher & Contact details	<b>Dr. Jyoti Bhosale, CCPPT, SIS - I, JNU</b> Email: <a href="mailto:dbjyoti@gmail.com">dbjyoti@gmail.com</a>
Credit	<b>Two (03)</b>
Contact hours	<b>Two (04)</b>
Class Schedule & Room number	<b>To be informed</b>
Tutorial	<b>NIL</b>

**Course Objective:**

It emphasizes on examining the emergence of the punishment by imprisonment in the evolving capitalist mode of production. More significantly, it studies the shifts within the nature of imprisonment as shifts associated with the nature of capitalist accumulation and the reproduction of class relationships.

**Course Description :**

This course is a study of punishment by imprisonment. It conceptualises punishment as

an object of political inquiry mainly by extending its scope beyond the institution of the prison per se. It emphasizes on examining the emergence of the punishment by imprisonment in the evolving capitalist mode of production. More significantly, it studies the shifts within the nature of imprisonment as shifts associated with the nature of capitalist accumulation and the reproduction of class relationships.

The course highlights the importance of, but much neglected area of incorporating experiences from the colonial and post colonial world in the existing critiques of punishment. As such, in its narration of the Indian experience, it situates the nature of punishment by imprisonment in the larger project of imperialism. Further, by drawing comparisons between imprisonment in India and metropolitan Britain, it attempts to account for the similarities and differences as a larger continuum operating from within the logic of capitalism.

**Learning outcomes:**

Gaining knowledge about laws, crime and punishment and capitalism

**Knowledge gained:** About the theoretical and functional aspects of crime and punishment.

**Skill gained:** Development of analytical thinking and theoretical application.

**Competency gained:** Broader understanding of crime and punishment paradigms.

**Mode of Instruction:**

Lecture, Discussion and Presentations.

**Evaluation Method:**

One (01) Term Paper and end-semester examination

**Course Content**

Module	Title
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I	<b>Title Introduction to Punishment(2 weeks)</b>
	<p>This session begins with a general introduction including the historical background of punishment. It discusses retribution; deterrence; and reformation. In particular, it examines utilitarian principles underlying Bentham’s panopticon and discusses its influence in Great Britain. The ‘modern prison’ was first introduced in India under the British rule; arguably under similar utilitarian influence. As such, the context and the rationales that guided the ‘birth of the modern prison’ in India will be examined in detail.</p> <p><b><u>Required readings</u></b></p> <p>Bentham, Jeremy. 1907/2007. <i>An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation</i>. New York: Dover Publications, INC. Mineola.</p> <p>Fienberg, Joel. 2013. “The Classic Debate”. In <i>The Philosophy of Law</i>, edited by Joel Fienberg and Jules Coleman. Australia: Wadsworth.</p> <p>Semple, Janet. 1993. <i>Bentham’s Prison: a Study of the Panopticon Penitentiary</i>. Oxford: Clarendon Press.</p> <p>Singha, Radhika. 1998. <i>A Despotism of Law: Crime and Justice in Colonial India</i>. Delhi: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Stokes, Eric .1982. <i>English Utilitarians and India</i>. Delhi: Oxford University Press.</p>
II	<b>Marxist critiques of imprisonment (10 weeks)</b>
	<p>Sessions on Marx will involve revisiting concepts such as primitive accumulation, dispossession, factory, role of wage labour, working conditions; vis-à-vis crime and punishment. It includes elaborate discussions on thinkers who have used Marxist ideas to critique punishment by imprisonment. Key themes that will be explored in relation to imprisonment are: slavery; labour market; factory; industrial-complex; and imperialism.</p> <p><b><u>Required readings</u></b></p> <p>Anderson, Clare and Hamish Maxwell-Stewart. 2014. “Convict Labour and the Western Empires, 1415–1954” in <i>The Routledge History of Western Empires</i>, pp.102-117, edited by Robert Aldrich and Kirsten McKenzie. New York: Routledge.</p> <p>Davis, Angela Y. 2011. <i>Are Prisons Obsolete?</i> New York: Seven Stories Press.</p> <p>Le Baron, Genevieve and Adrienne Roberts. 2010. “Toward a Feminist Political Economy of Capitalism and Carcerality”, <i>Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i>, vol. 36, no. 1], pp: 19-44.</p>

	<p>Marx, Karl. 1977. <i>Capital volume one: A critique of political economy</i>. Translated by B. Fowkes. New York: Vintage Books.</p> <p>Marx, Karl.1991. "Marx and Engels on Crime and Punishment." In <i>Crime and Capitalism: Readings in Marxist Criminology</i>, edited by David Greenberg. Palo Alto: Mayfield.</p> <p>Melossi, Dario. 1976. The Penal Question in Capital, <i>Crime and Social Justice</i>, No. 4: 26-33.</p> <p>Melossi, Dario and Massimo Pavarini. 1981.<i>The Prison and the Factory. Origins of the Penitentiary System</i>. London: Macmillan.</p> <p>Sellin, J. Thorsten. 1976. <i>Slavery and the Penal System</i>. New York: Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Inc.</p> <p>Rusche, Georg and Otto Kirchheimer. 2003. <i>Punishment and Social Structure</i>. New Jersey: Transaction Publishers.</p> <p>Vito, Christian G De and Lichtenstein Alex. 2013. "Writing a Global History of Convict Labour", <i>IRSH</i> Vol. 58: 285-325.</p> <p>Wacquant, Loic. 2002. "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: Rethinking the 'race question in the US", <i>New Left Review</i>. NLR 13: 41-60.</p>
III	<p><b>Foucault and Imprisonment(4 weeks)</b></p>
	<p>Discussion on punishment is rather incomplete without studying Foucault and his influence on the scholarship on punishment. The emphasis will be on his critique of enlightenment values and the Marxist tradition for its totalizing effect. However as recent and ongoing research on Foucault which has not only examined his published works but also the various courses that he taught, has made it possible it is argued, though with several differences, for a more Marxist reading of Foucault. Students will be introduced to some of these debates. This will be followed by a review of literature on imprisonment in India influenced by Foucault. The concluding sessions will include a more general critical appraisal of Foucault's work and its implications for the studies on punishment.</p> <p><b><u>Required readings</u></b></p> <p>Anderson, Clare. 2007. <i>The Indian Uprising of 1857-58: Prisons, Prisoners, and Rebellion</i>, London: Anthem South Asian Studies.</p> <p>Arnold, David. 1994. "The Colonial Prison: Power, Knowledge and Penology in Nineteenth-Century India." In <i>Subaltern Studies VII: Essays in Honour of Ranajit Guha</i>, edited by David Arnold, David Hardiman, New Delhi, Oxford University</p>

	<p>Press.</p> <p>Chibber, Vivek. 2013. <i>Postcolonial theory and the specter of capital</i>, New York: Verso.</p> <p>Elden, Stuart. 2015. A More Marxist Foucault: Reading <i>La Societe Punitiv</i>, <i>Historical Materialism</i>, No. 23.4: 149-168.</p> <p>Kaplan, Martha. 1995. Panopticon in Poona: An Essay on Foucault and Colonialism , <i>Cultural Anthropology</i>. Vol. 10, No. 1: 85-98.</p> <p>Kerr, Derek. 1999. "Beheading the King and Enthroning the Market: A Critique of Foucauldian Governmentality", <i>Science &amp; Society</i>, Vol. 63, No. 2: 173-202.</p> <p>Foucault, Michel.1979. <i>Discipline and Punish- The Birth of the Prison</i>, Translated by Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage.</p> <p>Foucault, Michel. 1980. "Prison Talk." In <i>Power/Knowledge</i>. edited by Colin Gordon. New York: Vintage.</p> <p>Redfield, Peter.2000. <i>Space in the Tropics: From Convicts to Rockets in French Guiana</i>, Berkeley: University of California Press.</p>

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