

**Political Science 3681
Corrections Policy in Newfoundland
Fall 2009**

TIME: 3:30 p.m - 4:45 p.m., Monday & Wednesday

LOCATION: ED 1002

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. T. Carlson
Tel. 364-7310 Office: SN 2031

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. (or by appointment)

Political Science 3681 provides an overview of corrections policy and practice in Newfoundland and Labrador from the time of settlement to the present day. The course examines how various political, social and economic forces have shaped correctional decision-making. It explores the impact of liberal and conservative ideology along with political and economic considerations on correctional policy-making.

The course traces this province's fascinating correctional history, exploring broad topics ranging from capital punishment to restorative justice. It concentrates on contemporary matters regarding correctional policy and practice from both a national and local perspective, examining specific issues such as the public release of information on sex offenders and the need for a new provincial prison.

Requirements

Journal articles and selections from texts are placed on reserve and will be supplemented by class notes and handouts. An updated syllabus will be provided which will incorporate student suggestions for new topics of interest for the second part of the course.

Articles on Reserve

Adjin-Tettey, E. (2007) "Sentencing Aboriginal offenders: Balancing offenders' needs, the interests of victims and society, and the decolonization of Aboriginal peoples, *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law*, Vol. 19, no. 1, pp. 179-216.

Bannister, J. (1998) "Convict transportation and the colonial state in Newfoundland, 1789", *Acadiensis*, Vol. 27, no.2, pp. 95-123.

Cadigan, S. (1995) "Whipping them into shape: state refinement of patriarchy among Conception Bay fishing families", in McGrath, C., Neis, B. and Porter, M. (eds.), *Their Lives and Times: Women In Newfoundland and Labrador*. St. John's: Killick Press, pp. 48-59.

Carlson, T. (1997) "Dealing with offenders: An historical perspective on corrections in Newfoundland", in G. Burford (ed.) *Ties that Bind*, St. John's, Jespersen Press (Handout)

Doob, A. N. & Cessaroni, C. T. (2001) "The Political Attractiveness of Mandatory Minimum Sentences", *Osgoode Hall Law Journal*, vol. 39, no. 2/3, pp. 287-304.

Doob, A. & Cesaroni, C. (2004) "How do we best approach the problem of youth crime?", in *Responding to Youth Crime in Canada*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 241 - 273.

Ekstedt, J. W. & Griffiths, C. T. (1984) "Policy Making in Canadian Corrections", in *Corrections in Canada: Policy and Practice*. Toronto: Butterworths.

Gartner, R., Webster, C.M. & Doob, A. (2009) "Trends in imprisonment of women in Canada", *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, Vol. 51, No. 2.

Greenwood, E. M. & Boissery, B. (2000) "The Eleanor Power Story", in *Uncertain Justice*, Toronto: The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, pp. .

McGill, G. (2008) "An institutional suicide machine: Discrimination against federally sentenced Aboriginal women in Canada", *Race/ethnicity: Multi-disciplinary Global Perspectives*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 89-119.

Parkes, D. & Pate, K. (2006) "Time for accountability: Effective oversight of women's prisons", *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, vol. 48, no. , pp. 251-285.

Poirier, S., Brown, G., & Carlson, T. (2008) *Decades of Darkness, Moving towards the light: A Review of the Prison System in Newfoundland and Labrador*, Department of Justice, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Roberts, J. V. (1998) "The evolution of penal policy in Canada", *Social Policy and Administration*, vol. 32, no. 4, pp. 420-437

Roberts, J. V. (2007) "Public confidence in criminal justice in Canada: A comparative and contextual analysis", *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Corrections*, vol. 49, no.2, pp. 153-184.

Welsh, B. C. & Farrington, D. P. (2005) "Evidence-based crime prevention: Conclusions and directions for a safer society", *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, vol. 47, no. 2, pp. 337-354.

Wilson, R. J., McWhinnie, A., Picheca, J. E., Prinzo, M. & Cortoni, F. (2007) "Circles of support and accountability: Engaging community volunteers in the management of high-risk sexual offenders", *The Howard Journal*, v. 46, no 1, pp. 1-15.

Zehr, H. (2002) "Restorative Principles", in *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*, Intercourse, Pennsylvania, Good Books, pp. 19 - 41.

TERM PAPER - Value 30%

The Term Paper should be approximately 2,500 words - eight to 10 double-spaced, typed pages. Adherence to proper reference citations such as APA or Turabian for books, articles, Internet sources etc. is required. Always remember to support your paper with good documentation.

1. Discuss whether correctional policy and practice in pre-and post-Confederation Newfoundland and Labrador has been progressive, effective and humane in its treatment of offenders, when compared to other jurisdictions e.g. other Canadian provinces, Britain and the U.S.

Your paper should cite specific examples of correctional policy and practice (which may include a decision not to introduce a particular action) from any or all eras of Newfoundland's correctional history, and it should include the impact of political, social and economic forces on policy-making.

OR

2. *Harsher sentencing and the increased use of imprisonment; 'three strikes' and mandatory minimum sentencing laws, 'truth in sentencing' and parole release restrictions; no frills prisons laws and 'austere prisons'; ... There is now a long list of measures that appear to signify a punitive turn in contemporary penalty [corrections].*

David Garland, *The Culture of Control* (2001, p. 142)

Discuss in relation to the contemporary Canadian justice system, noting specific policy initiatives by the Conservative government, and the effectiveness of 'get tough' as compared to other approaches to tackling crime. Ensure that your paper contains evidence-based research.

OR

3. Propose an effective correctional policy for dealing with: a) mentally ill offenders, b) elderly offenders, or c) sex offenders. Discuss the factors that would have to be taken into account in its strategic development, the forces that you would expect to bear on the policy's ultimate determination and the stages involved in the process of policy approval and implementation.

Discuss the likelihood of your policy being adopted, and the consequences, including the political implications, if it was implemented in the province.

OR

4. The unique problems and needs of Aboriginal and women offenders have been portrayed on numerous occasions through such means as reports, commissions of inquiry and court rulings.

Discuss how far Canadian correctional policy and practice has gone to address the unique problems and needs of EITHER: 1) Aboriginal offenders **OR** 2) women offenders (Aboriginal women offenders can be included in either of the options chosen). In your opinion, what steps, if any, are required to address their needs both nationally and in this province? Why?

Topics covered to First Test – Wednesday 7 October 2008

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|--------------|---|
| 9 September | Introduction |
| 14 September | Crime and punishment in 18 th century Newfoundland |
| 16 September | 18 th c. penal crisis and early 19 th c. political and penal reform |
| 21 September | Politics, ideology and the rise of the penitentiary |
| 23 September | Political background to the establishment of a local 'Penitentiary' |
| 28 September | Politics, punishment and progress in late 19 th century Newfoundland |
| 30 September | International correctional transformations and local inertia |
| 5 October | - Penal Developments in pre-confederation Newfoundland and Canada |
| 7 October | - First Test (20%) |

Required Articles for First Test – 7 October (on reserve)

The following articles will be supplemented by class notes and handouts.

Bannister, J. (1998) "Convict transportation and the colonial state in Newfoundland, 1789", *Acadiensis*, Vol. 27, No. 2, pp.95-123. (On reserve)

Cadigan, S. (1995) "Whipping them into shape: state refinement of patriarchy among Conception Bay fishing families", in McGrath, C., Neis, B. and Porter, M. (eds.), *Their Lives and Times*. St. John's: Killick Press.

Carlson, T. (1997) "Dealing with offenders: An historical perspective on corrections in Newfoundland", in G. Burford (ed.) *Ties that Bind*, St. John's, Jespersion Press, pp. 91-109.

Greenwood, E. M. & Boissery, B. (2000) "The Eleanor Power Story", in *Uncertain Justice*, Toronto: The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History.

On Wednesday 7 October an updated course outline (14 October – 2 December 2009) will be provided which may include student suggestions of topics of particular interest. It will focus on a variety of contemporary issues e.g. the Youth Criminal Justice Act, and it will include presentations by several guest speakers.

EVALUATION

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| Test 1 | Wednesday 7 October 2009 | 20% |
| Test 2 | Monday 9 November | 20% |
| Term Paper | Wednesday 25 November | 30% |
| Final Exam | Date to be announced | 30% |

Example Only