MCMASTER UNIVERSITY
FORCE AND FEAR, CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
Political Science 2C03-E
Course Outline

Instructor
Angela Licata
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Office: KTH 521
Office Hours: Monday 5:00 – 6:00
Wednesday 5:00 – 6:00

Class Meetings

Lectures – Monday and Wednesday 6:30 – 9:30
Building: ETB 235

I. Introduction

This course will explore the principles governing the use of coercive policies and actual force by public authorities and the impact on citizens in modern democratic states. It will examine the historical, theoretical and practical aspects underlying punitive, modern criminal justice and penal welfare systems as a base to an investigation of the use of and proposed use of coercive force in Canada. The preliminary focus on the actors involved and the meaning of fear in a political context and the labels and stereotypes that have been used to promote fear in recent years will set the stage for a more intensive review of the major contemporary and changing methods used by the state to alleviate or reinforce fear in the population and the effects of those mechanisms on citizen behaviour.

II. Objectives

The course is intended to give students a broader understanding of the use and impact of both subtle and overt means of coercion and force by democratic states as a means of controlling citizens. By the end of the course, it is anticipated that students will be able to identify various state actors that employ coercion and force in democratic states, and Canada in particular. Students will be able to describe and explain the methods of coercion available to the state and the impact of those differing mechanisms on citizens. Students will also be able to analyze contemporary political and public policy issues from an introductory level critical perspective concerning the use of force and attempts to control differing groups of citizens in democratic states. Given the complexity of some of the issues and the expectations of students, it is anticipated that an introductory course in political science with some knowledge of the structure of the government of Canada would be of assistance.

III. Required Texts

Students will find the following texts to be of assistance in preparing for and understanding class lectures and discussions:

Students will also be assigned articles from academic journals or other sources concerning specific topics for discussion. These readings will be available electronically through the McMaster libraries and/or posted on Avenue to Learn. In order to fully comprehend and be prepared for class discussions, students should complete assigned readings prior to class.

IV. Class Schedule

*Lecture 1*  
*April 30, 2018*  
*Pick Up Course Outline*

No Readings

*Lecture 2*  
*May 2, 2018*  
*Introduction and Overview of the Criminal Justice System*

Ruddell, Chapters 1 & 2

*Lecture 3*  
*May 7, 2018*  
*The State, Police, and Policing*

Ruddell, Chapters 3 & 5

*Lecture 4*  
*May 9, 2018*  
*Citizens, Victims, Criminals, and Others*

Ruddell, Chapter 4

*Lecture 5*  
*May 14, 2018*  
*Torture and Surveillance*

Ruddell, Chapter 6

**REFLECTION PAPER 1 DUE IN LECTURE**

*Lecture 6*  
*May 16, 2018*  
*Criminal Courts and Sentencing*

Ruddell, Chapters 7 & 8
MAY 21, 2018: VICTORIA DAY – NO CLASS

Lecture 7  May 23, 2018
Penitentiaries

Ruddell, Chapter 9

Lecture 8  May 28, 2018
Post-Incarceration

Ruddell, Chapter 10

Lecture 9  May 30, 2018
The Prison Industrial Complex


REFLECTION PAPER 2 DUE IN LECTURE

Lecture 10  June 4, 2018
Privatization of Force


Lecture 11  June 6, 2018
Race and Ethnicity


Lecture 12  June 11, 2018
Gender and Poverty


Lecture 13  June 13, 2018

TAKE HOME EXAM DUE IN LECTURE
V. Teaching Methods

The class is scheduled for two three-hour lecture sessions per week. The lecture sessions will be conducted in an interactive format with students having the opportunity to and being encouraged to ask questions concerning the information being provided to them. The third hour of course time will be conducted in tutorial format for more informal, guided and intensive discussions concerning course materials. This provides students with the opportunity to ask questions, formulate their thoughts and discuss their opinions in a less formal environment, while enabling students to more fully explore the topics under consideration through a guided discussion with their peers.

In addition to formal class time, students are also invited and encouraged to meet with the instructor during regular office hours or by special appointment to discuss course content.

The course also involves the potential for group based learning and completion of assignments. In the event that students wish to complete group assignments, the responsibility for finding appropriate group partners rests solely with the students. Students may only team up with other students in their assigned tutorials. Participation in and the submission of group work means that all members of the group will share the same grade and each student including their name on group work acknowledges and accepts this grading method.

VI. Evaluation

The following evaluations will determine the grade received by students:

1. Reflection papers 30% x2
2. Take Home Exam 40%

Written assignments should be provided to the instructor at the beginning of class. As a last resort, assignments can be submitted to the box outside of the political science office. Assignments will not be accepted by the Department of Political Science Office staff or that are slipped under the instructor’s or any other door. Papers received by e-mail or fax will not be accepted without the prior express permission of the instructor on each assignment. In the event that students are unable to attend class or complete required assignments and have submitted the appropriate documentation to their faculty or received the approval of the instructor for the incomplete work, the instructor reserves the right re-allocate the missed grades to other assignments.

VII. Assignments

1. Two Reflection Papers – May 14, 2018 & May 30, 2018 30% each

Students are required to write one reflection paper based on the course content covered in lectures 2, 3, 4, and 5. The question will ask students to reflect on the lecture content and readings up to that date as a means of reinforcing the course content and developing the major
themes of the course. The question will be distributed in lecture on May 9, 2018 and due May 14, 2018 in class. The short reflection paper is worth thirty percent.

A second reflection paper will be administered on May 28, 2018 and due May 30, 2018 in class. The second reflection paper will be based on course content covered in lectures 6, 7, and 8.

Answers should not exceed five (5) pages using 12 point, Times New Roman font, with 1 inch or 2.5 cm margins on all sides, including the top and bottom, and are double spaced. Any material exceeding five pages will not be read. The instructor reserves the right to not read any submission that does not conform to the format requirements.

2. Take Home Exam

The final exam will be based on all materials covered in the lectures and assigned readings throughout the course. The exam will provide an overall summary of the course for students and an opportunity to apply the material they have learned over the course of the term. The exam will be in take home format – administered on June 11, 2018 and due in class on June 13, 2018.

Late Policy

Students should make all reasonable attempts to submit papers on the due date. In the event that a legitimate extension is required, students should speak to the instructor in advance of the due date to make the appropriate arrangements for such an extension. Requests for an extension submitted by e-mail will not be considered – you must speak to the instructor in person. Examinations and/or assignments related to other courses do not constitute or qualify as exceptional circumstances or legitimate excuses. Due to the nature of the assignments, late exams will not be accepted, unless otherwise discussed with the instructor.

Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

Academic Dishonesty

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.
It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Statement on Electronic Resources**

In this course we will be using Email and/or Avenue To Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

**Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

**COURSE MODIFICATION STATEMENT:** The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.