

CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

SOCI 3410B  
WINTER 2023  
STUDIES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INCARCERATION AND ABOLITION

**Instructor:** Lydia Dobson, BA, MA, JD

**Email:** [lydiadobson@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:lydiadobson@cunet.carleton.ca)

**Phone Number:** (343) 987 3825

**Method of Delivery:** In Person at Azrieli Theatre room 302  
Wednesday 6:05PM-8:55PM

**Office Hours:** By appointment via phone or Zoom

**Teaching Assistants:**

Please note that your **first point of contact** for any questions related to the course is your assigned Teaching Assistant. TAs will endeavour to respond to your emails within 2 business days (this does not include weekends and holidays).

Group A:

All student with last names starting with A – HAR

Teaching Assistant: Abdulhakim Moalimishak

Email: [AbdulhakimMoalimisha@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:AbdulhakimMoalimisha@cmail.carleton.ca)

Group B:

All students with last names starting with HEP – PAN

Teaching Assistant: Niousha Mazaheri

Email: [NioushaMazaheri@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:NioushaMazaheri@cmail.carleton.ca)

Group C:

All student with last names starting with PAR – Z

Teaching Assistant: Katie Reichert

Email: [katiereichert@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:katiereichert@cmail.carleton.ca)

**Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses:** SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003, or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002, and third-year standing.

---

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our

perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols. In acknowledging this, we will interrogate the institutions, laws, policies, and practices of the Canadian carceral state that uphold colonialism.

### **Course Description and Objectives:**

This course is intended to introduce students to theories of prison abolition against the backdrop of the current state of incarceration in Canada. The course focuses on the experiences of various criminalized groups and prioritizes the voices of people with lived experience of incarceration and criminalization. Upon completion of the course students will have achieved a thorough understanding of the prison industrial complex and the impacts of conditions of confinement on broader society.

### **Reading (s)/Textbook (s)/Videos(s):**

All readings and videos are provided for via hyperlink in the syllabus schedule below. If you have any difficulty accessing your readings, please contact your assigned Teaching Assistant for support.

<b>Lecture Modules and Discussion Sessions</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>
January 18	<p><u><a href="#">Course Overview</a></u></p> <p>No readings assigned.</p> <p>This class will be used to review the syllabus and course materials and to establish core concepts and terms that will be used throughout the term.</p>

January 25	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Theories of Abolition</u></p> <p>Angela Davis, <a href="#">Are Prisons Obsolete?</a>, (2003) (chapter 1)</p> <p>Emma Goldman, <a href="#">Prisons: A Social Crime and Failure</a>, Anarchism and Other Essays (Third revised edition, New York: Mother Earth Publishing Association, 1917)</p> <p>Thomas Mathiesen, <a href="#">The Abolitionist Stance</a>, Journal of Prisoners on Prisons vol 17(2) 2008</p>
February 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Anti-Black Racism and Incarceration</u></p> <p>Angela Davis, <a href="#">Are Prisons Obsolete?</a>, (2003) (chapter 2)</p> <p>Michelle Alexander, <a href="#">The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness</a>, pp. 14-35</p>
February 8	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Colonization and Incarceration</u></p> <p>Michaela McGuire and Danielle Murdoch, <a href="#">(In)-justice: An exploration of the dehumanization, victimization, criminalization, and over-incarceration of Indigenous women in Canada</a>, (2022) Punishment and Society vol 24(4)</p> <p>Office of the Correctional Investigator, <a href="#">Ten Years since Spirit Matters: Indigenous Issues in Federal Corrections (Part 1)</a>, Annual Report (2021-2022) pp. 93 - 105</p> <p>Roach, Vicky, <a href="#">The System Is Not Failing, It Is Working To Harm First Nations People</a> Journal of Prisoners on Prisons vol 30(2) 2022</p>
February 15	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Impacts of Incarceration on Families</u></p> <p>Joel Medine and Beth Caldwell, <a href="#">Visiting Days</a>, Journal of Prisoners on Prisons vol. 20(2) (2011)</p> <p>Mothers Offering Mutual Support (MOMs), <a href="#">Out of Sight, Out of Mind: The Incarcerated</a>, Journal of Prisoners on Prisons vol 29 (2020)</p> <p>Joanne Fry, <a href="#">Covid-19 Pandemic Struggles for Prisoners' Families</a>, Journal of Prisoners on Prisons, vol 29 (2020)</p>

February 22	<b>READING WEEK</b>
March 1	<p><u>Prison Labour (read: slavery)</u></p> <p>Angela Davis, <a href="#">Are Prisons Obsolete?</a>, (2003) (chapter 5)</p> <p><a href="#">13<sup>th</sup></a> (available on Netflix): watch all</p> <p>Beyond Prisons, <a href="#">Prisons Labor feat. Jared Ware</a>: Listen: 6:15 – 14:30</p> <p>Gregory McMaster and Jordan House, <a href="#">An Insider's Perspective on Canadian Prison Labour: An Interview</a>, Journal of Prisoners on Prisons, volume 31(2) 2022</p>
March 8	<p><u>Gender in Prisons</u></p> <p>Angela Davis, <a href="#">Are Prisons Obsolete?</a>, (2003) (chapter 4)</p> <p>Vicki Chartrand, <a href="#">Landscapes of Violence: Women and Canadian Prisons</a>, Champ pénal/Penal field, vol. XII, (2015)</p> <p>Boyer et al., "<a href="#">Vulnerable Targets: Transgender Prisoner Safety, the Law and Sexual Violence in the Prison System</a>" Canadian Journal of Women and the Law 34(1) (2019)</p>
March 15	<p><u>Healthcare and Deaths in Custody</u></p> <p>Adelina Iftene, <a href="#">Life and death in Canadian penitentiaries</a>, (2020) Canadian Family Physician</p> <p>University of Ottawa Prison Law Clinic, <a href="#">Open Letter on Healthcare in Prisons</a> (2021)</p> <p>Anna Mehler Paperny, <a href="#">Canada's jailhouse secret: Legally innocent prisoners are dying</a>, (2017) Reuters</p> <p><a href="#">Ontario Deaths in Custody of the Rise</a> (December 2022), Canadian Civil Liberties Society</p>
March 22	<p><u>Solitary Confinement</u></p> <p>Lydia Dobson "<a href="#">Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Bill C-83, Solitary Confinement, and Mental Health</a>." Journal of Law and Social Policy vol 33. (2021)</p>

	Office of the Correctional Investigator, <a href="#">Restrictive Forms of Confinement in Federal Corrections</a> , Annual Report (2021-2022). 16 – 19, 78 -91
March 29	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Prisoners' Rights Advocacy in Ontario</u></p> <p>aisha benslimane, Sara Speight, Justin Piché, Aaron Doyle, <a href="#">The Jail Accountability &amp; Information Line: Early Reflections on Praxis</a>, (2020) Journal of Law and Social Policy vol 33</p> <p>Lydia Dobson, Portia Larlee, Carol Drumm, <a href="#">Ontario is Exposing Prisoners to Torturous Conditions</a>, (2021) Ottawa Citizen</p> <p><u>Review the following organizational websites:</u></p> <p><a href="#">Criminalization and Punishment Education Project</a></p> <p><a href="#">Toronto Prisoners' Rights Project</a></p> <p><a href="#">PASAN</a></p> <p><a href="#">Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies</a></p>
April 6	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Immigration Detention</u></p> <p>This lecture will be taught by Professor <a href="#">Jessica Evans</a> via Zoom. Please follow the link provided by Professor Evans in order to access (the link will be sent to you in the week leading up to the class). If you require a quiet space to observe the lecture, you are welcome to attend our regularly scheduled classroom.</p> <p>Deepan Budlakhoti, "<a href="#">Locked-up and in Limbo: Living Stateless in my Hometown Jail</a>" Journal of Prisoners on Prisons vol 29 (2020)</p> <p>Souheil Benslimane &amp; David Moffette, "<a href="#">The Double Punishment of Criminal Inadmissibility for Immigrants in Canada</a>", Journal of Prisoners on Prisons, vol 28 (2020)</p>
April 12	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Exam Review</u></p> <p>This class will be used to review the course, allow students to ask questions about the exam and to provide a comprehensive exam review.</p>

## **Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

### **Research Paper: 50%**

Due: March 1, 2023

Students are required to submit a research paper focusing on one of the lecture topics provided in this syllabus. The paper must be between 8 and 10 pages double spaced. Students should use APA citations, unless another citation style is approved by their Teaching Assistant. It is expected that research papers will present a clear thesis statement, which will be supported relevant academic and social research. A research paper grading rubric will be provided and reviewed in advance of the research paper due date.

### **Final Exam: 50%**

Date: TBD (see winter exam schedule)

The final exam will be cumulative of all course materials (including lectures, guest lectures, readings, podcasts, and videos). The exam will be scheduled in the formal winter exam period. The exam format will include 3 essay questions (10 marks each), 5 short answer questions (2 marks each), and 10 multiple choice questions (1 mark each).

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course	DEF = Deferred	

### **Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.**

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**For students with disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning

of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

\*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for December examinations (Fall) is **November 11, 2022** and for April examinations (Winter) is **March 15, 2023**.

**For pregnancy:** Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

**For religious obligations:** Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

**For survivors of sexual violence:** As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

**For student activities:** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

### **Student Mental Health**

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

**Emergency resources (on and off campus):** <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

### **Carleton resources:**

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Off campus resources:**

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

### **Plagiarism**

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.



## Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

**Feeling sick?** Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

**Masks:** Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

**Vaccines:** While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca).

## Fall 2022 Dates and Deadlines

August 31, 2022	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full fall, early fall and fall/winter courses.
September 5, 2022	Statutory holiday. University closed.
September 6, 2022	Academic orientation (undergraduate and graduate students). Orientation for new Teaching Assistants.
September 7, 2022	Fall term begins. Full fall, early fall, and fall/winter classes begin.
September 20, 2022	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full fall, late fall, and fall/winter courses.
September 23-25, 2022	Full summer and late summer term deferred final examinations will be held.
September 30, 2022	Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

October 7, 2022	December examination schedule (fall term final and fall/winter mid-terms) available online.
October 10, 2022	Statutory holiday. University closed.
October 24-28, 2022	Fall break, no classes.
November 11, 2022	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodation Forms for December full fall and late fall final examinations and fall/winter midterm examinations to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
November 15, 2022	Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses
November 25, 2022	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full fall term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official December final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
December 9, 2022	Fall term ends. Last day of full fall and late fall classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule (full fall and fall/winter courses only). Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for full and late fall courses.
December 10-22, 2022	Final examinations in full fall and late fall courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
December 22, 2022	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
December 25, 2022 through January 3, 2023 inclusive	University closed.

#### Winter 2023 Dates and Deadlines

January 2, 2023	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full winter and early winter term courses.
January 4, 2023	University reopens.
January 9, 2023	Winter term begins. Full winter and early winter classes begin.
January 20-22, 27-29, 2023	Full fall and late fall term deferred final examinations will be held.
January 31, 2023	Last day to withdraw from full winter courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

February 17, 2023	April examination schedule available online.
February 20, 2023	Statutory holiday. University closed.
February 20-24, 2023	Winter break, no classes.
March 15, 2023	Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses. Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodation Forms for April full winter, late winter, and fall/winter final examinations to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
March 29, 2023	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full winter term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official April final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
April 7, 2023	Statutory holiday. University closed.
April 12, 2023	Winter term ends. Last day of full winter, late winter, and fall/winter classes. Classes follow a Friday schedule (full winter and late winter courses). Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for full winter and late winter courses.
April 13-14, 2023	No classes or examinations take place.
April 15-27, 2023	Final examinations in full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
April 27, 2023	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
May 19-31, 2023	Full winter, late winter, and fall/winter deferred final examinations will be held.