

Fall 2007  
Criminal Justice 4322.001  
Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Bay Hall 205

## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN LITERATURE & FILM

### Course Syllabus

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Office Hours:  
Tuesday & Thursday 12:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.  
And by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of selected literary classics that deal with crime and punishment. Literary artists from various cultures have described in quite personal terms the experience associated with committing crime, engaging in outlawed political activity, fighting in the courts, being victims of crime and abuse, being wrongfully accused, living in prison and reentering civil society following imprisonment. We will place their experiences in historical and sociological perspective.

### REQUIRED READING

Richard Wright, *Native Son*  
Ted Conover, *Coyotes*  
Michael G. Santos, *Inside: Life Behind Bars in America*  
James S. Hirsch, *Hurricane: The Miraculous Journey of Rubin Carter*

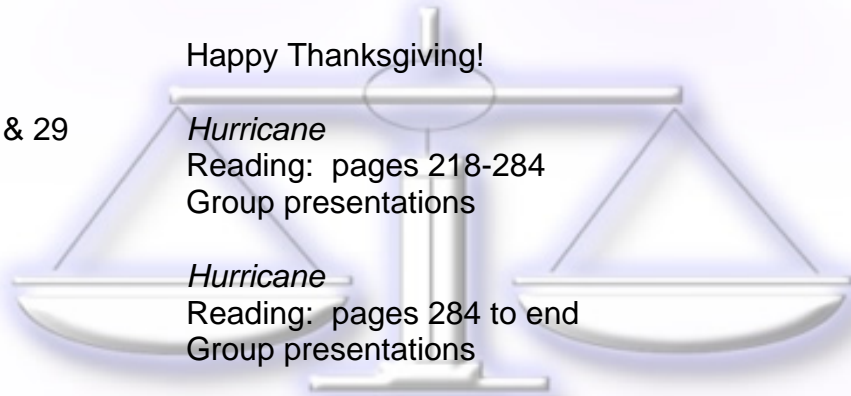
### CLASS FORMAT

This course centers around four compelling books, the major themes of which will be illustrated through the use of films, lectures, guest speakers, small group and full large group discussions. Lectures will be devoted to providing historical, criminological, political background material. Our small group talks will enable us to share thoughts about the writings and films in a relaxed setting. This should contribute to a sense of collaborative intellectual conversation and good feeling!

## SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC
August 23 & 28	Introductions & Overview Reading: Start <i>Native Son</i>
August 30 & & September 4 & 6	<i>Native Son</i> About the author Race, Crime and Punishment Reading: Book One - "Fear"
September 11 & 13	<i>Native Son</i> Reading: Book Two - "Flight"
September 18 & 20	<i>Native Son</i> Reading: Book Three - "Fate" Film
September 25 & 27	<i>Coyotes</i> About the author Illegal Immigration Guest speakers: Poet Tito and Sheriff's Dept. Kenedy County Reading: pages 1-100
October 2 & 4	Film: <i>El Norte</i> Reading: pages 101 to 174
October 9 & 11	<i>Coyotes</i> Reading: pages 175 to end
October 12 (Friday)	Take-home exam on <i>Native Son</i> & <i>Coyotes</i> due
October 16	<i>Inside: Life Behind Bars in America</i> About the author American Prisons & Prisoners
October 18 & 23	<i>Inside: Life Behind Bars in America</i> Reading: pages 1-100 Group presentations
October 25 & 30	<i>Inside: Life Behind Bars in America</i> Reading: pages 101 – 199 Group presentations

November 1 & 6	<i>Inside: Life Behind Bars in America</i> Reading: pages 200 – 299 Group presentations
November 8	<i>Hurricane</i> Actual Innocence Film Reading: pages 1-59
November 13 & 15	<i>Hurricane</i> Film Reading: pages 60-158
November 20	<i>Hurricane</i> Reading: pages 159-217 Group presentations
November 22	Happy Thanksgiving!
November 27 & 29	<i>Hurricane</i> Reading: pages 218-284 Group presentations
December 4	<i>Hurricane</i> Reading: pages 284 to end Group presentations



**Schedule Subject to Change**

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

A take-home essay examination will be given for *Native Son* and *Coyotes*. Students will have the option of preparing a group presentation or 4 page essay for *Inside: Life Behind Bars in America's Prisons* and for *Hurricane*. All written work should be computer-processed (double-spaced, 11-13 font), well paragraphed and grammatical.

In the interest of fairness to all, late papers will not receive full credit.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Students are reminded of the university's strict prohibition against cheating and plagiarism. Punishment for same may include expulsion from the university and a grade of F. See attached guidelines for avoiding plagiarism.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Since the course is dedicated to reading fascinating books and talking about them, your presence each class period is essential.

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

1. Take-home examination for *Native Son* & *Coyotes* 50%
  2. Group presentations or essays 25% each 50%
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## **ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The College of Arts and Humanities requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center can be reached at 825-3466.

