



**HISTORY 265.1HE  
THE WORLD DIVIDED  
CRIME and PUNISHMENT  
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2021**

**Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information, <https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>**

**Instructor:** Dr. Sharon Kowalsky  
**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Sciences 111  
**Office Hours:** T/Th, 10:30am-12:00pm, or by appointment  
**Office Phone:** 903-886-5928  
**University Email Address:** Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Course Materials:**

The following required book is available at the bookstore:

- Dostoevsky, trans Katz, *Crime and Punishment: A New Translation*, ISBN 978-1631495311.

Additional materials will be distributed to the class by the professor through MyLeo Online.

**Course Description:**

Encounters between human populations who perceive the differences that separate them to be greater than the similarities that unite them have punctuated world history. Such encounters have frequently led to war, imperialism and colonization, and less frequently to cultural imitation and synchronism. The modern world is the product of these encounters as much as, if not more than, it is the product of the development of distinct regional cultures, such as Western Civilization. This course explores the nature of such encounters and the consequences they had for cultural and political developments. Topics such as the slave trade, European colonization, and globalization may receive special attention.

This semester we are going to explore the issues of crime and punishment, paying particular attention to the social constructions of both crimes and punishments. We will focus mostly on Europe, but will consider the issues surrounding crimes and punishments in their global context. Students will explore the development of theories about crime and applications of punishment, explore how those ideas have changed over time, and engage in directed research focused on primary sources. By the end of the semester, students will understand how different societies construct their ideas of crime and punishment, and how that reflects the values and priorities of those societies. Using this knowledge, students will better understand the function of crime and punishment in contemporary society.

Note: This course satisfies a Humanities requirement for University Studies.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials and to link cultural representations to the underlying historical realities that helped shape them. By the end of the semester:

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena (create).
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message (understand/apply).
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues (apply).
4. Students will be able to understand their role in their own education (understand).
5. Students will be able to assess the relationships among crimes, punishments, and social norms.

This course is designed to develop skills of writing communication and critical thinking. It intends to provide students with the tools to assess critically a variety of types of information and to understand the historical context for contemporary American society. Through guided exploration of various sources and historical research methods, students will deepen their writing communication and critical thinking skills. These skills form the foundation to be successful in any major.

Students' ability to meet the learning outcomes of this course will be evaluated through the assignments (see descriptions below under assignments).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

#### *Attendance*

Regular attendance in class is required. Excessive absences will impact your final grade significantly.

#### *Participation*

You are responsible for all material covered in our class meetings, regardless of your physical presence in the room. Students are expected to come prepared to engage with and discuss the assigned material. This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the reading material with you to class. I expect all students to participate in our class discussions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. I especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. I will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others' arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own.

Your participation grade will be based on your attendance and your engagement in our class discussions, and be guided by the following rubric:

- A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent
- B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent
- C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent
- D = Often unprepared, several absences
- F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

#### *Assignments*

Reflection Essays: Students will complete four Reflection Essays over the course of the semester, on each segment of the course (excluding the Research Project segment), due by midnight of the final Friday for that segment as indicated in the Course Schedule below. Reflection Essays should be completed by the student working individually (no group work permitted) according to the rubric

criteria established by the class and the instructor and described in detail on D2L. Each Reflection Essay is worth 10% of the final grade.

Research Projects: Students will complete two research projects and presentations over the course of the semester. These may be completed individually or in groups of up to three students. Specific details for each assignment can be found on the D2L site.

1. Early Semester Idea Presentation (worth 10% of the final grade). Using Adobe Creative Campus (Adobe Spark), students will develop a short (2-3 minute) presentation that outlines two issues related to crime and/or punishment in the contemporary world.
2. Old Bailey Research Project (worth 30% of the final grade). Students will use the Proceedings of the Old Bailey to develop a research paper/presentation that focuses on how the treatment of crimes reflect social norms and priorities. More details are on the D2L site.

### Grading

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Reflection Essays	40%
Research Projects	40%
Participation/Attendance	20%

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following general rubric:

- A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement
- C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned
- D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
59 or less =	F

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

### *Word Processing:*

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare written exams and research projects. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers. If at all possible, please do not use Google Docs or Pages or any other cloud-based program that is not MS Word. **All written work should be submitted in MS Word format.**

### *MyLeo Online:*

This course is web-enhanced through D2L Brightspace (MyLeo Online), the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. Below are technical requirements:  
LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu). To get started with the course, log on to MyLeo Online and click on this course. MyLeo Online will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, MyLeo Online will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you. You should get into the habit of checking the MyLeo Online site for this course on a daily basis.

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.

*Turnitin:*

Students must submit all written work to Turnitin. Work is submitted through the dropbox in MyLeoOnline. All student work must be turned in through MyLeo Online and will automatically be submitted to Turnitin. Please let me know if you have any problems.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### **Interaction with Instructor:**

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can be very understanding but only if I know what is going on with you.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### **COVID-19**

A&M-Commerce encourages the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

### **Classroom Behavior**

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). **Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period.** Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I can be very understanding of problems that might arise over the course of the semester, but only if I know what is going on with you. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

### **Late Papers**

All written assignments are due by midnight the date listed in the Course Schedule below. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and may be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.* To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments (excluding quizzes or online discussion postings) at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

### **Academic Honesty**

In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

### ***Statement on Student Grievances***

Students who have questions or concerns about the Instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the Instructor or a classmate should first consult with the Instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky ([Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu)). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

### ***Counseling Center***

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### ***Writing Center***

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

### ***Nondiscrimination Statement***

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### ***Campus Concealed Carry***

Texas Senate Bill-11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### ***Students with Disabilities***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library 132**

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I will do my best to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

Additional readings beyond what are listed on this syllabus will be available on eCollege.

### Unit 1: Introductions

#### Week 1

August 31: Introductions

September 2: Thinking like a Historian

Read: Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (excerpts on D2L)

#### Week 2

September 7: No Class

September 9: Student Presentations in class

### Unit 2: Crime and Punishment in the Ancient and Early Modern World

#### Week 3

September 14: Ancient Rome

Read: Emma Southon, *A Fatal Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum: Murder in Ancient Rome* (library ebook): Introduction and Chapter 2: Murder in Roman Law (see link on D2L)

September 16: No Class

#### Week 4

September 21: Witchcraft

Read: [selection from *History from Crime?*]

September 23: Peasant Justice

Read: Frierson, "Crime and Punishment in the Russian Village" (D2L)

Due: Reflection Paper 1, Due Friday at midnight

### Unit 3: The Enlightenment, Science, and Theories of Crime and Punishment

#### Week 5

September 28: Beccaria and Modern Crime Studies

Read: Beccaria text: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/58700/58700-h/58700-h.htm> (excerpts: TBA); Beccaria assessment: <https://aeon.co/essays/cesare-beccarias-radical-ideas-on-crime-and-punishment>

September 30: Bentham and the Modern Penitentiary

Read: Bentham, *Panopticon*: [https://oll.libertyfund.org/title/bowring-the-works-of-jeremy-bentham-vol-4#lf0872-04\\_head\\_010](https://oll.libertyfund.org/title/bowring-the-works-of-jeremy-bentham-vol-4#lf0872-04_head_010) (excerpts TBA); Bentham *Panopticon* overview: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bentham-project/who-was-jeremy-bentham/panopticon>; Foucault, "Panopticism" (on D2L)

**Week 6**

October 5: No Class

October 7: No Class

**Week 7**

October 12: Modern Crime Science

Read: [TBD]

October 14: Gender and Crime

Read: [TBD]

Due: Reflection Paper 2, Due Friday at midnight

**Unit 4: Crime and Punishment, the Novel****Week 8**

October 19: Introduction to Dostoevsky

Read: Crime and Punishment, Intro and Part I

October 21: Reading the Novel

Read: Crime and Punishment Parts II and III

**Week 9**

October 26: Reading the Novel again

Read: Crime and Punishment, Parts IV and V

October 28: Finishing the Novel

Read: Crime and Punishment, Part VI and Epilogue

Due: Reflection Paper 3, Due Friday by Midnight

**Unit 5: Exploring Criminal Cases****Week 10**

November 2: No Class

November 4: Introduction to The Old Bailey

Read: <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/index.jsp>

**Week 11**

November 9: Research in the Old Bailey

November 11: Research in the Old Bailey

**Week 12**

November 16: Research in the Old Bailey

November 18: Research in the Old Bailey

**Week 13 - Thanksgiving**

November 23: No Class

November 25: No Class

**Unit 6: The Experience of Punishments****Week 14**

November 30: Corporal Punishment

Read: [TBD]

December 2: Incarceration

Read: [TBD]



**Week 15**

December 7: Capital Punishment and State Violence

Read: [TBD]

December 9: Conclusions

Due: Reflection Paper 4, Due Friday by Midnight

**Week 16**

**Finals Week: Final Presentations during Final Exam Period**