Some say that the United States of America is on the verge of being a lock down, surveillance society. If this is the case, how are the social, economic, political, and cultural forces that shape our society responsible for the development of one of the fastest growing industries in the country—the prison industrial-punishment complex? How are the dominant ideas of race, gender, class and nationality implicated in the development and maintenance of the Prison Industrial Complex? How does the ideology of white supremacy guide the criminal justice system and enhance the life chances of white people while simultaneously limiting the life chances of people-of-color. With a 500% increase in the prison population since 1970 (200,000), the U.S. has six times more people incarcerated than its nearest competitor, the United Kingdom. The United States with much self-congratulatory back-slapping for its claim of being the premier democracy holds the most known political prisoners of all western democracies (approx. 200+). The U. S. has a population of more than 350 million people, which is 4.7% of the world’s population of 6.2 billion people and incarcerates over 25% of the world’s 8 million prisoners. Today over 2.3 million people are in prison, and as of today more than 50% are young black men, and about 700 thousand Latino men, and poor women, of all ethnicities, make up the remainder of the total either in state or federal prisons, jails, probation or on parole—with this many people ensnared in the criminal-justice system, as it is called, what are the implications for the American democratic republic? We will look at and discuss the social, economic, and political implications that the prison-industrial-complex has on society beyond the walls. What sort of link, if any, is there between the growth of the prison industry and the broader society? How is the broader society beyond the prison walls impacted, positive or negative, by the prison growth industries?
Required Texts


Recommended readings

Blackboard readings
“Captive Labor US Business Goes to Jail”
“Race, Prison, and Poverty”
“Steel Town Lockdown”
“Color Bind”
*Are Prisons Obsolete?*

Web-Sites
The Sentencing Project: [www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org)
Human Rights Watch, “Possession Versus Sales”: [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)
“Made inside worn outside”: [www.prisonblues.com](http://www.prisonblues.com)

Videos

Course Requirements
Students’ grades will be based upon participation in class discussions, weekly outlines of the course readings and a final research paper, typed, double-spaced [8-10 for undergraduate students.

Graduate students will write a 15-20 final research paper, typed, and double-spaced with four additional outside sources.

Graduate students will lead five (5) discussions of the seminar during the term. All students are required to read and be prepared to discuss all the readings in this course, and this includes the readings/discussions led by graduate students. Outlines of the starred readings will be submitted by both graduate an undergraduate students.
In addition, graduate students will be required to lead class sessions marked with a star (*).

The weekly outlines will be detailed two to three pages long with a reflection/response journal entry (a paragraph) single-spaced, at the end of the outline. We will have weekly discussions of the chapters of the readings and the articles posted on BlackBoard. This will be part of your participation grade. It is your responsibility to attend and be in class on time on our assigned meeting day. If you miss three days during the term your grade will be reduced by one full grade.

In addition to reading all the required texts, it is also required of this class that you check your email for additional readings may be placed on BlackBoard.

--1 Paper 100pts. (Due, Tuesday, 7 June)
--6 outlines and journals (1/per week 30 points each) 180pts.
--1 outline for final paper 25pts.
--Participation: (65 points) 65pts.
--Total 370 points

Grade range: 370-333=A; 332-296=B; 295-259=C; 258-222=D; 221-0=F. Allowance for “+” or “—” enhancements can be made within these ranges.

Incomplete: An “Incomplete” is not an automatic option in this class. “Incomplete” grade must be arranged substantially in advance of the end of the term and may be granted only to unusual and well-documented circumstances. The student must be passing the course at the time the “Incomplete” is requested.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities “Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

Honor Code: Students are expected to uphold Oregon State University’s Student Conduct Code. This Code prohibits cheating, fraud, and dishonesty (including, but not limited to, plagiarism, buying and stealing course assignments and papers, performing academic assignment by other persons, unauthorized disclosure and receipt of academic information, and other practices commonly understood to be academically dishonest). Any assignments found to be in violation of the Code will receive a failing grade, and all participants will be subject to disciplinary action. For more information, see the University’s website at: <http://oregonstate.edu/studenconduct/regulations/index.php>

Student Responsibilities and Participation
You are expected to attend class sessions and participate in discussions and group exercises. I will monitor attendance and your participation in the class sessions. You will have trouble with this course if you do not attend class regularly. Assigned readings should be completed prior to meetings to facilitate discussion, and you should come to class prepared to ask questions about the lectures, assignments, and/or reading material. If you are experiencing problems with this course, its content, the reading, or my teaching style, I strongly encourage you to raise your concerns at the earliest possible moment. You can do this by visiting me during my office hours.
During the course there may be some unforeseen circumstances, which arise that alter the schedule below. In this case it will be **YOUR** responsibility to be in class to find out what those adjustments might be. You do not have to agree with others or me in the class, but YOU **DO NEED TO ENGAGE**.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:** At the end of this course students will be able to do the following:

1. apply critical thinking skills through writings assignment and class discussions
2. identify the nature/characteristics of the prison industrial complex
3. articulate the social, political, economic, and cultural forces responsible for the development and maintenance of the Prison-industrial-punishment complex
4. describe how race, class, gender, and nationality are implicated in the criminal justice prison-industrial complex
5. describe how racism and de-industrialization are implicated in the construction and maintenance of the prison-industrial complex

**Course Calendar**

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO REVISION**

Assigned readings for the week are to be completed prior to class meetings.

**Week 1:** March 29th:  Course Introduction, and introductions.
Reading(s): Davis (chapters 1-3)
Video: “Black Panther: An Interview With Angela Davis In Prison, and Bobby Seale in jail.”

**Week 2:** April 5th
Reading(s): Davis (chapters 4-6)

Lockdown America
CRISIS

**Week 3:** April 12th
Reading(s): Parenti (chapters 1-3)

POLICE

**Week 4:** April 19th
Reading(s): Parenti (chapters 4-7)
A Personal Perspective of prison from a US Political prisoner

*Week 6: May 3rd
   Reading(s): Abu-Jamal (PP. 3-55)
   Grad Students   Alexander (Introduction: PP. 1-19)

*Week 7: May 10th
   Reading(s): Abu-Jamal (PP. 56-111)
   Grad Students   Alexander (Chapter One: PP. 20-57)

*Week 8: May 17th  Outline due for final paper.
   Reading(s): Abu-Jamal (PP.112-165)
   Grad Students   Alexander (Chapter Two: PP. 58-94)

*Week 9: May 24th
   Reading(s): Abu-Jamal (PP. 166-211)
   Grad Students   Alexander (Chapter Five: PP.173-208)

Week 10: May 31st. Closing comments about the course: The Prison Industrial-Punishment Complex.

Final papers due Tuesday, 7 June at no later than 2pm. **Late papers will have the final paper grade reduced by one full grade.**