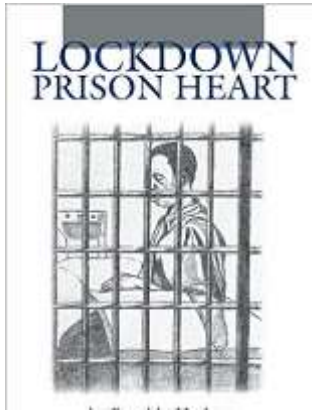


ENGL 631: STUDIES IN NONFICTION PROSE

20th-Century and Contemporary American Prison Autobiographies



Katy Ryan, Professor of English
Spring 2019

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Language gave me a way to keep the chaos of prison at bay and prevent it from devouring me.

Jimmy Santiago Baca

Course Description

This semester we will study the history and literature of the prison in the United States. We will begin with Douglas Blackmon's *Slavery By Another Name* and Sarah Haley's *No Mercy Here*. As we work to understand intersectional race and class dynamics in the expansion of the carceral state, we will also consider women's and LGBTQ experiences in a system starkly organized by gender.

We will be reading twentieth-century and contemporary literary works primarily by imprisoned and formerly imprisoned people. Life-writing that describes time in prison provides imaginative access to a highly locked down environment. Certain subjects will recur in our readings, such as, the pain of separation from loved ones, violence and victimization, barriers to post-release life, access to books, and the cultivation of internal and communal sources of strength. Some writers conform to a conversion structure; others resist the arc toward redemption. Some situate their story within a larger historical moment; others concentrate on personal experience; many do both. I am especially interested in how writers deal with time—as passing, punishment, possibility.

You will have a chance to learn about the Appalachian Prison Book Project, a nonprofit that sends free books to imprisoned people in six states and facilitates book clubs inside prison.

we are the ones we have been waiting for
June Jordan

Contents of Syllabus

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1. Course Goals

- To read 20th-century and contemporary U.S. American life-writing that draws from the experience of imprisonment
- To study the history and politics of the prison in the United States
- To understand the racialized, class-based, and gendered dimensions of the criminal justice and penal systems
- To create a supportive intellectual and creative community
- To critique the field of critical prison studies

2. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students should be able to do the following:

- Contribute to scholarly discussions about nonfiction prison literature and prison history
- Identify patterns and dominant tropes in the literature
- Define the carceral state and the prison industrial complex
- Respond thoughtfully to the ideas of others
- Present ideas clearly and effectively in writing and speech
- Compose a strong analytical research essay in literary or cultural studies

3. Inclusivity Statement

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services. Accessibility Services is located in Suite 250 at 1085 Van Voorhis Rd (beside Applebee's and across from the Mountaineer Station transportation center). 304-293-6700; access2@mail.wvu.edu; <http://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>.

4. Required Texts

John Wideman, *Brothers and Keepers* (1984)

Assata Shakur, *Assata* (1987)

R. Dwayne Betts, *A Question of Freedom* (2009)

Shaka Senghor, *Writing My Wrongs* (2016)

Donna Hylton, *A Little Piece of Light* (2018)

Handouts

Anonymous, "Autobiography of an Imprisoned Peon," *Prison Writing*
LaJuana Lampkins, "A Secret Injustice" in *Lockdown Prison Heart*
Kate Richards O'Hare, from *Crime and Criminals*
Willie Francis, "My Trip to the Chair"
Bryan Stevenson, from *Just Mercy*
Michel Foucault, excerpt from *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*
Kevin Burno, "Flies in a Cell," *Sunday Paper*
Jarvis Jay Masters, from *That Bird Has My Wings*
Leonard Peltier, from *Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sun Dance*
Sheri Dwight, from *Inside this Place, Not of It*
Charlie Morningstar, from *Inside This Place, Not of It*
Lela Northcross Wakely, "One Woman Can Make a Grand Difference"
Paul St. John, "Behind the Mirror," Bell Chevigny, ed., *Doing Time: 25 Years of Prison Writing*
Jimmy Santiago Baca, "Coming Into Language," from *Doing Time*

Readings on ECampus or Online

Douglas Blackmon, from *Slavery By Another Name*
Sarah Haley, "Like I Was A Man": Chain Gangs, Gender, and the Domestic Carceral Sphere in Jim Crow Georgia," *Signs* 39.1 (Autumn 2013)
Jack London, "Pinched": A Prison Experience" and "The Pen"
Bruce H. Franklin, Introduction, *Prison Writing in 20th-Century America*.
Megan Sweeney, from *Reading Is My Window*
David Garland, from *The Peculiar Institution* (preface + intro)
Malcolm X, from *Autobiography of Malcolm X*
R. Dwayne Betts, "Only Once I Considered Suicide"
R. Dwayne Betts, "Could an Ex-Con Become an Attorney"
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/16/magazine/felon-attorney-crime-yale-law.html>
Maya Schenwar, "Beyond Survivor's Guild: Responding to a Sibling's Incarceration" in *The Long Term*
Mariame Kaba, "Circles of Grief, Circles of Healing" in *The Long Term*
Michelle Alexander, Forward, *Inside This Place, Not of It*
Leslie Brewster, in *Women of Wisdom*, Women's Prison Book Club Collection
Holding Onto Sand, Men's Prison Book Club Collection
Susan Burton, from *Becoming Ms. Burton*
Etheridge Knight, "Hard Rock Returns..." and "For Freckle-Faced Gerald"
Judith Clark and Kathy Boudin, Poems
Victoria Law, "Against Carceral Feminisms" in *The Long Term*
Monica Cosby, "A Reflection on Entering and Exiting Communities" in *The Long Term*
Tammy Bond, "Life on the Registry" in *The Long Term*
Michelle Alexander, "The New Jim Crow"
Bryan Stevenson, Commencement Address
Paul Butler, from *Let's Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice*
Che Gossett, "Abolitionist Imaginings." Interview with Bo Brown, Reina Gossett, and Dylan Rodriguez in *Captive Genders*

Recommended on ECampus or Online

Mumia Abu-Jamal, excerpts from *Live from Death Row* (xv-23)

Jobi Cates, Interview <https://thepointmag.com/2018/dialogue/restoring-justice>

Deborah Denno, “When Willie Francis Died: The ‘Disturbing’ Story Behind One of the Eighth Amendment’s Most Enduring Standards of Risk,” *Death Penalty Stories*

Nancy Kurshan, “Women and Imprisonment in the US”

https://www.freedomarchives.org/Documents/Finder/DOC3_scans/3.kurshan.women.imprisonment.pdf

Dannie “Red Hog” Martin, “A Mount Everest of Time,” *Prison Writing*

Dylan Rodriguez, from *Forced Passages*

Caleb Smith, from *Prison and the American Imagination*

Eric A. Stanley, “Fugitive Flesh: Gender Self-Determination, Queer Abolition, and Trans Resistance,” *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex*, eds. Eric A. Stanley and Nat Smith (1-11)

5. Grading Distribution

A) Participation	15
B) Five Reader Responses (paced)	25
C) Annotated Bibliography	15
D) Research Prospectus	5
E) 12-page Research Essay	30
F) Symposium Presentation	10

6. Requirements

A) Participation and One Big Question (15 points)

The Practice

My goal in every class is to facilitate the difficult work of thinking, and I set a high bar for thoughtful and respectful exchange. Counterarguments and experiences that are not reflected in our reading list are welcome. If at any point you feel like your voice is not being heard or understood, let me know.

Participation involves active discussing and listening. If you have concerns about talking in class, make an appointment early in the semester. Participation can also include posting and commenting on our course blog.

Big Question

Everyone will prepare a Big Question for one class. Your question should engage broadly with the week’s reading rather than a specific work. Big Questions should not be easily answered.

B) Reader Responses (25 points)

You will compose five 500-word reader responses. Pace these responses throughout the semester.

You can focus on whatever you would like from the week's reading. The best responses typically explore a specific question or idea and are anchored in the language of literary, historical, or theoretical works. Be sure to quote directly from the texts.

Once during the semester, you have the option to write a retrospective response. This means that you can write a response *after* the class has discussed a particular work. Retrospective responses must be turned in within 2 weeks of the reading.

You have the option to write one creative response. With the creative option, you can compose an additional scene, write a letter to a character or author, create a dialogue between characters from different works, or something else entirely.

***Please upload reader responses to ECampus by Sunday at 7:00 PM.

C) Annotated Bibliography (15 points)

To prepare for the final essay, you will compile an annotated bibliography with a minimum of 7 scholarly sources. Each notation should be approximately 300 words. Sources should be varied (books, book chapters, journal articles). Beyond the 7 required sources, you are welcome to include non-scholarly sources. See assignment.

D) Research Prospectus (5 points)

A 750-word summary of your research project. See assignment.

E) 12-page Research Essay (30 points)

See assignment.

F) Symposium Presentation (10 points)

At the end of the semester, we will hold a one-day symposium to showcase your work. This will be an opportunity to present your ideas and research.

7. Additional Resources

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

Robert Burns, *I am a Fugitive from a Georgia Chain Gang!*

Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice*

Angela Davis, *Autobiography of Angela Davis*

Earl Dudding, *Trail of the Dead Years*

Damien Echols, *Life After Death*
Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, *My Life as a Political Prisoner*
Piper Kerman, *Orange Is the New Black*
Patrice Cullors Khan, *When They Call You a Terrorist*
Donald Lowrie, *My Life In Prison*
Jarvis Jay Masters, *That Bird Has My Wings*
Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad, *Scottsboro Boy*
Sanyika Shakur, *Monster: The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member*
Iceberg Slim, *The Naked Soul*
Stanley Tookie Williams, *Blue Redemption*

ANTHOLOGIES

Jean Casella, James Ridgeway, Sarah Shourd, eds. *Hell is a Very Small Place: Voices from Solitary Confinement*
Siobhan Dowd, ed. *This Prison Where I Live: PEN Anthology*
Marc Falkoff, ed. *Poems from Guantánamo: The Detainees Speak*
Wally Lamb, ed. *Couldn't Keep It To Myself*
Robin Levi and Ayelet Walkman, eds., *Inside this Place, Not of It: Narratives from Women's Prisons*
Alice Kim et. al., *The Long Term: Resisting Life Sentences / Working toward Freedom*

PRISON PUBLICATIONS

Fortune News (Fortune Society)
Stateville Speaks <http://www.neiu.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/justice-studies-department/stateville-speaks>
Prison Legal News <https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/>
American Prison Writing Archive <http://www.dhinitiative.org/projects/apwa>

LEGAL, HISTORICAL, AND CULTURAL STUDIES SELECTIONS

Patrick Alexander, from *From Slave Ship to Supermax: Mass Incarceration, Prisoner Abuse, and the New Neo-Slave Novel* (WVU E-Book)
Joanne Braxton, *Black Women Writing Autobiography: A Tradition within a Tradition*
Erin L. Castro, "Racism, the Language of Reduced Recidivism, and Higher Education in Prison: Toward an Anti-Racist Praxis"
Eric Cummins, *The Rise and Fall of California's Radical Prison Movement*
Angela Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*
Colin Dayan, *The Story of Cruel and Unusual*
Stephen Dillon, *The Queer Politics of the Prison State*
Robert Ferguson, *Inferno: An Anatomy of American Punishment*
Bruce Franklin, *Prison Literature in America: The Victim as Criminal and Artist*
David Garland, *Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society*
Ruth Gilmore, *The Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis and Opposition in Globalizing California*
Lisa Guenther, *Solitary Confinement: Social Death and its Afterlives*
Barbara Harlow, *Barred: Women, Writing and Political Detention*
Joseph T. Hallinan, *Going Up the River: Travels in a Prison Nation*

Joy James, *Imprisoned Intellectuals*
 Regina Kunzel, *Criminal Intimacy*
 Marc Mauer and Meda Chesney-Lind, eds., *Invisible Punishment: The Collateral Consequences of Mass Imprisonment*
 Quentin Miller, ed. *Prose and Cons: Essays on Prison Literature*
 James Morris, *Jailhouse Journalism*
 Naomi Murakawa, *The First Civil Right: How Liberals Built Prison America*
 David M. Oshinsky, “*Worse Than Slavery*”: *Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice*
 Margo V. Perkins, *Autobiography as Activism: Three Black Women of the Sixties*
 Katy Ryan, ed. *Demands of the Dead: Executions, Storytelling, and Activism in the United States*
 Heather Thompson, *Blood in the Water*
 Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*
 Bruce Western, *Punishment and Inequality in America*

FILMS

I Am A Fugitive from a Georgia Chain Gang! Dir. Mervyn LeRoy, 1932
The Last Mile, Dir. Sam Bischoff, 1932
Zoot Suit, Dir. Luis Valdez, 1981
Kiss of the Spiderwoman, Dir. Hector Babenco 1985
Weeds, Dir. John Hancock, 1987
Shawshank Redemption, Dir. Frank Darabont, 1994
Murder in the First, Dir. Marc Rocco, 1995
Dead Man Walking, Dir. Tim Robbins, 1995
Sleepers, Dir. Barry Levinson, 1996
Dancer in the Dark, Dir. Lars Von Trier, 2000
Piñero, Dir. Leon Ishaq, 2001
Talk to Me, Dir. Kasi Lemmons, 2007

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

13th, Dir. Ava DuVernay, 2016
The House I Live In, Dir. Eugene Jarecki, 2012
A Sentence Apart, Dirs. Jason Sussberg and Theo Rigby (<http://asentenceapart.com/>)
Big House--Alderson, PBS, 1998
Hard Road Home, Dir. Macky Alston, 2007 (<http://www.hardroadhome.org/>)
Incident at Ogala, Dir. Michael Apted, 1992
Scottsboro: An American Tragedy, Dir. Barak Goodman, 2000
Thin Blue Line, Dir. Errol Morris, 1988
Execution of Wanda Jean Allen, Dir. Liz Garbus, 2002
Shielded Brutality (spokefilms.com), 2007
Up the Ridge, dirs. Amelia Kirby and Nick Szuberia
Slavery By Another Name <http://video.pbs.org/video/2176766758/>
Solitary Confinement <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/solitary-nation/#solitary-nation>
Say Her Name: the Life and Death of Sandra Bland, dir Kate Davis and David Heilbroner
Released (it's free via the US Attorneys Office)

PODCASTS

Ear Hustle

Justice in America

WEBSITES AND VIDEOS

Informational

Marshall Project <https://www.themarshallproject.org/#.iEMIMLRae>

Death Penalty Information Center <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/>

Real Cost of Prison: Comic Books: <http://www.realcostofprisons.org/comics.html>

Sentencing Project Interactive Map <http://www.sentencingproject.org/map/map.cfm#map>

Prison Culture visuals: <http://www.usprisonculture.com/blog/visualizations/>

[ACLU Infographic](#) on mass incarceration

Solitary Watch

http://www.salon.com/2013/05/07/battling_censorship_behind_bars_partner/

Stanford Experiment: <http://zimbardo.socialpsychology.org/>

Humanities Action Lab Global Dialogues on Incarceration

<http://humanitiesactionlab.org/globaldialogues/incarceration/>

Maria Gottschalk, "Prison Overcrowding and *Brown v. Plata*," *New Republic* 8 June 2011.

<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/politics/89575/prison-overcrowding-brown-plata-supreme-court-california>

Education and Re-Entry

All of Us or None: http://www.allofusornone.org/newsite/about_us

Inside Out Center <http://www.insideoutcenter.org/>

Education Justice Project <http://www.educationjustice.net/home/>

Alabama Prison Creative Arts + Education <http://apaep.auburn.edu/>

Prison Studies Project <http://prisonstudiesproject.org/about/>

Arizona State University Prison English <http://english.clas.asu.edu/prisonenglish>

New *Yorker* article <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/12/12/the-ex-con-scholars-of-berkeley>

Prison English News <http://english.clas.asu.edu/files/PrisonEnglishNewsletterSummer2013final.pdf>

Presentation by Arthur Longworth on LWOP:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC8wGu7uCMk&index=7&list=PLki4QkQOqBsGP3ofy8YDJok2K9LMmUVXy>

Appalachian Prison Book Project <http://aprisonbookproject.wordpress.com/>

Books Recommended by The Marshall Project

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/books?fbclid=IwAR2uffKnKsX6WqeC4NZ7FSk1QtYuhbIc7Q51ZdvQdznnL12npTBiguIqW5Y>

8 SCHEDULE

*NOTE: This is a reading intensive class. I may, based on class dynamics, make adjustments to the reading schedule. Once we are in a groove, I will indicate which readings will be our priority each week. Consider the syllabus a resource for further reading and research.

Jan 7

What it might help me to know. Introductions.
Syllabus. Sign Up for Big Question Day. Intro to Renaldo Hudson
Clips from *Slavery By Another Name* (1-17:00; 59:25-1:09:35; 1:20:30-end)

Emancipation, with an Exception: Prison Labor

Jan 14

Anonymous, “Autobiography of an Imprisoned Peon” (1903) [Handout/ECampus]

LaJuana Lampkins, “A Secret Injustice” in *Lockdown Prison Heart* (2004)
[Handout/ECampus]

Douglas Blackmon, from *Slavery By Another Name* - Introduction, Chapter XV,
and Epilogue [ECampus]

Sarah Haley, “Like I Was A Man”: Chain Gangs, Gender, and the Domestic
Carceral Sphere in Jim Crow Georgia,” *Signs* 39.1 (Autumn 2013).
[ECampus/JSTOR]

Big Question → Gabe

Recommended:

Article on Austin Reed’s *The Life and Adventures of a Haunted Convict, or the
Inmate of a Gloomy Prison*
<http://www.mhpbooks.com/random-house-buys-rights-to-unearthed-1850s-prison-memoir/>

Jeffrey Goldberg, “A Matter of Black Lives,” *Atlantic* September 2015 (Angola)
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/09/a-matter-of-black-lives/399386/>

Video on Angola: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ABpWhY5Xzk>

Jan 21—Martin Luther King, Jr Day

Jan 28

Jack London, “ ‘Pinched’: A Prison Experience” and “Pen” (1894)
<http://carl-bell.baylor.edu/jl/Pinched.html>
<http://carl-bell-2.baylor.edu/bellc/JL/ThePen.html>

Kate Richards O'Hare, from *Crime and Criminals* (1921) [Handout/ECampus]

Michel Foucault, from *Discipline and Punish* [Handout/ECampus]

H. Bruce Franklin, Introduction to *Prison Writing in 20th-Century America* [ECampus]

Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions, "An Open Letter to our Friends on the Question of Language" [Handout]

Big Question → Matthew and Jordan

Recommended:

Adam Gopnick, "Learning from the Slaughter in Attica"

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/08/29/learning-from-the-slaughter-in-attica>

Beth Schwartzapfel, "A Primer on the Nationwide Prisoners' Strike," *Marshall Project* <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2016/09/27/a-primer-on-the-nationwide-prisoners-strike#.ux2vA138j>

State-Killing, Solitary, and Captivity

Feb 4

Willie Francis, "My Trip to the Chair" (1947) [Handout/ECampus]

Bryan Stevenson, from *Just Mercy* [Handout/ECampus]

David Garland, from *Peculiar Institution* [ECampus]

Dwayne Betts, "Only Once I Considered Suicide" [handout/ECampus]

In Class: *Witness to an Execution*

Big Question → Megan and Kacey

Recommended:

"What Dying Looks Like in America's Prisons," *Atlantic* 16 Feb. 2016

<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/02/hospice-care-in-prison/462660/>

Jack Abbott and Norman Mailer, *In the Belly of the Beast: Letters from Prison*

Views from Solitary -- Photographs

<https://prisonphotography.org/2012/11/19/views-from-solitary-prisoners-imaginations-made-real-by-activists-photographs/>

Mumia Abu-Jamal, Commencement Address:

<http://www.prisonradio.org/media/audio/mumia/goddard-commencement-speech-1054-mumia-abu-jamal>

Deborah W. Denno, “When Willie Francis Died . . .” [Ecampus]

Damien Nichols

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-making-art-on-death-row-saved-damien-echols-life_us_570c0ff0e4b0885fb50e0224

“To Murder Victims’ Families Executing Killers is Justice”

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bal-md.kane05feb05-column.html>

Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation <http://www.mvfr.org/>

Murder Victims Families for Human Rights <http://www.mvfhr.org/>

Optional

Feb 9 (Saturday) APBP Training Day 10:00-12:00 Aull Center, 351 Spruce St.

Feb 11

Assata Shakur, *Assata* (1987)

Kevin Burno, “Flies in a Cell,” *Sunday Paper* [handout/Ecampus]

Antoine Beach-Bey, “Organized Chaos” [handout/Ecampus]

Big Question → Gabriella

Recommended:

Atul Gawande, “Hell-hole”

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/03/30/hellhole>

Interactive Map -- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/criminal-justice/locked-up-in-america/how-much-time-u-s-prisoners-spend-in-solitary/>

Visual Art / Fly in the Ointment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUs8K1jZEvs&feature=youtu.be>

Michael Hames-García, *Fugitive Justice*, chap. 3 [See Google Books]

Joy James, “Framing the Panther: Assata Shakur and Black Female Agency” in *Want to Start a Revolution? Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*, eds. Jeanne Theoharis, Komozi Woodard, and Dayo F. Gore. (New York: NYU Press, 2009).

<http://humanities.williams.edu/joy-james/>

Beth Ritchie, Chapter 5, “The Matrix: A Black Feminist Response” in *Arrested Justice* [WVU E-Book]

Reading and Writing Practices

Feb 18

Malcolm X, from *Autobiography of Malcolm X* [Online] / Chapters 10 and 11
https://archive.org/stream/TheAutobiographyOfMalcomX/The_Autobiography_Of_MalcomX_djvu.txt

Jimmy Santiago Baca, “Coming Into Language” [handout/ECampus]

Paul St. John, “Behind the Mirror,” *Doing Time* [handout/ECampus]

Megan Sweeney, from *Reading Is My Window* [ECampus]

Big Question → Cristl

Recommended:

Angela Davis, *Autobiography of Angela Davis*
<https://nwasicollectif.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/angela-davis-autobiography.pdf>

Interview with Angela Davis and Toni Morrison
<http://news.ucsc.edu/2014/10/morrison-davis-q-a.html>

Conversation with Angela Davis and Toni Morrison
<http://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/angela-davis-and-toni-morrison-in-conversation-literacy-libraries-and-liberation/#.VHxnc3tjNK0.facebook>

Manning Marable, “Rediscovering Malcolm’s Life: A Historian’s Adventures in Living History,” *Souls* 7.1 (2005)
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ccbh/pdfs/Souls.Rediscovering_Malcolms_Life.pdf
[a.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ccbh/pdfs/Souls.Rediscovering_Malcolms_Life.pdf)

Feb 25

John Edgar Wideman, *Brothers and Keepers*

Maya Schenwar, “Beyond Survivor’s Guild: Responding to a Sibling’s Incarceration” in *The Long Term* [ECampus]

Access to Books / Censorship

<https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2018/dec/4/censorship-prisons-and-jails-war-written-word/>

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/how-prisons-keep-books-from-incarcerated-people>

Guantánamo Diary

[http://www.democracynow.org/2015/1/22/inside the us torture chambers prisoners](http://www.democracynow.org/2015/1/22/inside_the_us_torture_chambers_prisoners)

Big Question → Anna

Recommended:

Jeanne Marie Laskas, “Inside the Federal Bureau of Way Too Many Guns”

<http://www.gq.com/story/inside-federal-bureau-of-way-too-many-guns>

ACLU on life sentencing: <https://www.aclu.org/blog/criminal-law-reform-human-rights/15-year-old-gets-six-life-sentences>

Mar 4

Dwayne Betts, *A Question of Freedom* (2009)

Etheridge Knight, “Hard Rock Returns...” and “For Freckle-Faced Gerald”
[handout/ECampus]

Charlie Savage, “Chelsea Manning Describes a Bleak Life in a Men’s Prison” *New York Times* Jan 13, 2017

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/13/us/chelsea-manning-sentence-obama.html>

Mariame Kaba, “Circles of Grief, Circles of Healing” in *The Long Term* [ECampus]

Big Question → Kenneth

Recommended:

Betts on BookTV https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD_iLRYYOFE

Eric A. Stanley, “Fugitive Flesh: Gender Self-Determination, Queer Abolition, and Trans Resistance,” *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex*, eds. Eric A. Stanley and Nat Smith [ECampus]

National Crime Victims Law Institute / History of Victims’ Rights

https://law.lclark.edu/centers/national_crime_victim_law_institute/about_ncvli/history_of_victims_rights/

National Center for Victims of Crime

<http://victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims/get-help-bulletins-for-crime-victims/victims'-rights>

Office of Justice / Office for Victims of Crime

<https://www.ovc.gov/>

Mar 9 -17 Spring Break

Mar 18

Donna Hylton, *A Little Piece of Light* (2018)

Rikers and Teens in Solitary <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/questioning-solitary-confinement-adolescents-rikers-island/>

Judith Clark and Kathy Boudin, Poems [ECampus]

Victoria Law, “Against Carceral Feminisms” in *The Long Term* [ECampus]

Sheri Dwight, from *Inside this Place, Not of It* [handout/ECampus]

Lela Northcross Wakely, “One Woman Can Make a Grand Difference”
[handout/ECampus]

“How Incarcerated Parents are Losing their Children Forever”
<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/12/03/how-incarcerated-parents-are-losing-their-children-forever?ref=hp-1-10>

Big Question → Ellen

Recommended:
What I Want My Words to Do (documentary)

Susan Sheehan, “Does sexual abuse early in life justify later misdeeds? The case of Donna Hylton”
https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/does-sexual-abuse-early-in-life-justify-later-misdeeds-the-case-of-donna-hylton/2018/07/19/f6048bb8-4bef-11e8-84a0-458a1aa9ac0a_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.c15a0f208e0a

Elizabeth Bernstein, “Sexual Politics of the New Abolitionism” (sex trafficking)

Timothy Head and Grover Norquist, “High Costs of Mass Incarceration,”
National Review 13 Aug 2015
<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/422476/over-incarceration-not-making-america-safer>

Mar 25

DUE: Annotated Bibliography (by end of week)

Shaka Senghor, *Writing My Wrongs* (2016)

Jarvis Jay Masters, from *That Bird Has My Wings* [ECampus]

Big Question → Vince

Recommended:
Leonard Peltier, from *Prison Writings: My Life is My Sun Dance*
[handout/Ecampus]

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Apr 1

DUE: Research Prospectus (by end of week)

Leslie Brewster, 2 essays in *Women of Wisdom* [ECampus]

Susan Burton, from *Becoming Ms. Burton*

Michelle Alexander, “The New Jim Crow” [handout/Ecampus]

In-class: *13th* (documentary film)

Big Question → Elana

Apr 8

Monica Cosby, “A Reflection on Entering and Exiting Communities” in *The Long Term*

Tammy Bond, “Life on the Registry” in *The Long Term*

Che Gossett, “Abolitionist Imaginings” (Interview with Bo Brown, Reina Gossett, and Dylan Rodriguez) [ECampus]

African American Policy Forum, et. al. “Black Girls Matter,”
http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org/app/uploads/2015/09/BlackGirlsMatter_Report.pdf

Stephanos Bibas, “The Truth About Mass Incarceration,” *National Review* 16 Sept 2015 <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/424059/mass-incarceration-prison-reform>

Doran Larson, “Why Scandinavian Prisons Are Superior”
<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/09/why-scandinavian-prisons-are-superior/279949/>

Big Question → Kerri

Recommended:

Ruth Gilmore, Prison Abolition / CA Strikes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-chgMIctL90>

Angela Davis, from *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Introduction, Chaps 3 and 6
<https://www.feministes-radicales.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Angela-Davis-Are-Prisons-Obsolete.pdf>

S. Lamble, “Carceral Logics: 10 Reasons to Dismantle the Prison Industrial Complex Through Queer/Trans Activism and Action,” *Captive Genders*

Seth Farranti, “Prison Dorm Continuum” *Ozy* http://www.ozy.com/true-story/the-prison-dorm-continuum/39210?utm_source=dd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=09042015

Ruth Gilmore, Beyond the PIC <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTPjC-7EDkc>
Carceral Studies Network – Duke <https://carceralstudies.duke.edu/>
Education Justice Project – U of Illinois U-C <http://www.educationjustice.net/home/>
Alabama Creative Arts + Education Project – Auburn <http://apaep.auburn.edu/>

Alcatraz Installation by Ai Weiwei
<http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/22/world/ai-weiwei-alcatraz/>

Interview with Eric Stanley <http://thenewinquiry.com/features/the-carceral-state/>

April 15

DUE: Essay Drafts (staggered deadlines)

Paul Butler, from *Let's Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice* [ECampus]

Abolition Syllabus http://www.aaihs.org/prison-abolition-syllabus/?utm_content=bufferb8dbc&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Bryan Stevenson, Commencement Address [ECampus]

Big Question → Sarah

Apr 22

Concluding Thoughts / New Questions

DUE: Final Essays (staggered deadlines)

Saturday, April 27 (if this works for everyone?): Prison Autobiographies Symposium