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## **PAM 2080: CONFINEMENT!**

### **Course Prerequisites**

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There are no prerequisites. The only requirement is that you are a Freshman or a Sophomore.

### **Short Description and Goals**

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In just the last 40 years, the American incarceration rate has grown by leaps and bounds. This increase is not only historically novel, but also unprecedented among wealthy democracies. And because this increase has been concentrated among minority men with low levels of education living in the poorest communities, the onset of mass incarceration has meant that in some communities, many working-age men are as likely to be incarcerated as they are to be free. The goal of this course is to understand what is unique about the era that has come to be called mass incarceration, what caused it, what its consequences are, and what sorts of policies might end it.

This course has two goals:

- 1. Balance and assess a host of different types of evidence from different disciplines.**
- 2. Engage in evidence-based discussions in the interest of achieving common goals.**

The two required books are the 2003 edition of *Society of Captives* by Gresham Sykes, which includes a special introduction by Bruce Western, and Piper Kerman's *Orange Is the New Black*.

### **Assignments and Grading**

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The grade in this course will be composed of just one component: participation and attendance. Because this is a one credit S/U course, I do not think there should be any written assignments. But you absolutely must participate, which means showing up on time and engaging with the material, and you also must do the reading. (You only have to do reading for two of the classes.)

### **Topics**

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#### **1. A Film on Confinement in the Era of *The Society of Captives* (01.28.2016)**

*The Shawshank Redemption*

#### **2. Historical Research on Confinement (02.04.2016)**

Gresham Sykes. 1957 [2003]. *The Society of Captives*.

**3. The Psychology of Being the Prisoner Instead of the Imprisonment (02.11.2016)**

*The Stanford Prison Experiment*

**4. Contemporary Documentaries on Confinement (02.18.2016)**

*The Farm*

*The Norden*

**5. Contemporary Narratives on Confinement (02.25.2016)**

Piper Kerman. 2011. *Orange Is the New Black*.