INSTRUCTOR: Dr. William Little

Course Description and Objectives

This course examines institutions and practices of regulation and social control with special emphasis on the research tradition of Michel Foucault. We will study social control in the form of styles of government: criminal law and sovereign power, disciplinary techniques and biopower, and post-disciplinary forms of contemporary government (advanced liberal, risk management, public health, etc.) and the “society of control.” Topics of discussion in Sociology 307 will include Foucault’s work on government, disciplinary power, the prison, criminality, and delinquency, as well as current work on alternative penal practices, aboriginal restorative justice, medical biotechnologies and biopower, control of addiction, decriminalization and regulation of marijuana, surveillance, responses to counter-insurgency and asymmetrical warfare, and the creation of contemporary zones of exclusion or “camps.”

Skills Development

This course provides students with the theoretical skills to analyze contemporary forms of regulation and social control as styles of government. Students will learn to closely examine how current social problems get defined as problems within specific techniques of control which seek to shape conduct to achieve certain ends.

Required Textbook

Supplementary readings will be made available via CourseSpaces.

* A more detailed course outline will be distributed to students during the first week of classes.