

States of Incarceration

Sample Syllabus

Mass Incarceration Overview

Reading Schedule

Week 1:

- Introduction to the project (statesofincarceration.org)
- Liz Sevckenko, "[Remembering the Age of Mass Incarceration](#)"

Week 2

- Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow* (Introduction and Ch. 2)
- Marjorie Schwarzer, "Introduction: The Culture of Incarceration," *Museums and Social Issues*
- Introduction to local archives

Week 3

- Barbara Fields, "Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the United States of America," *New Left Review*
- Khalil Muhammad, "Where Did All the White Criminals Go?" *Souls*
- In-class film: *Lock Em Up: Juvenile Injustice at Rikers Island Prison*

Week 4

- Visit to community partner organization

Week 5

- Erving Goffman, *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situations of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*, Intro and Ch. 1-2
- Jennifer Gonnerman, "Before the Law" *The New Yorker*
- Lisa Guenther, "The Living Death of Solitary Confinement," *New York Times*

Week 6

- Class field trip to prison facility

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Week 7

- Torrie Hester, “Deportability and the Carceral State”
- Aviva Chomsky, *Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal*, Intro and Ch. 4-5

Week 8

- 2nd visit to community partner organization

Week 9

- Mariame Kaba and Erica Meiners, “Arresting the Carceral State: Educators must work to end the school-to-prison pipeline,” *Jacobin*
- Eric Anthamatten, “Incarceration, Education, Emancipation,” *The Atlantic*

Week 10

- Heather Thompson, “Why Mass Incarceration Matters: Rethinking Crisis, Decline, and transformation in Postwar America,” *Journal of American History*
- Jeff Smith, *Mr. Smith Goes to Prison*, Ch 2 & 9

Week 11

- 3rd visit to community partner organization

Week 12-15

- Finalizing exhibit materials