

**HIS 401.01**  
**Global Police States: New Research in Carceral Studies**

Satisfies: EXP+, SPK, WRTD

Mondays 1:00 PM -3:50 PM

Prof. Robert Chase

By studying the history of punishment and policing as a mid-twentieth century response to student activism, anti-colonialism, and civil rights and racial empowerment, this research seminar will introduce students to the field of carceral studies with the expectation that students will write professional historical research papers on this new field of study. This senior research seminar analyses global regimes of punishment, policing, prisons, and surveillance through a transnational lens across the twentieth century. In the past decade, there has been a vibrant and new approach to understanding the twentieth century through the study of what historians have called the “carceral state” and the “punitive turn.” Broadly conceived, the carceral state is the state’s apparatus to monitor, surveil, control, punish, and discipline its citizens through state functions that are obviously punitive (such as police, prisons, immigration detention/deportation, and jails) and those that are less obvious (such as systems of education, mental health, health care, and welfare). Students will be exposed to a sample of the most interesting, most complex, and most significant work on the carceral state and the methodological tools of this “punitive turn” as the basis for conducting an original research project on a subject of their choice.

Although this course offers a broad theoretical framework, specific themes that we will address include: how prisons, policing, and surveillance upheld racial regimes (from Jim Crow to South Africa’s apartheid); how systems of surveillance and punitive measures in the fields of education, medical care, psychiatric care, and welfare have contributed to carceral states; how people living within these regimes resisted; how to recover the voice and experience of the “subaltern;” policing borders and immigration detention/deportation; the role of gender and sexuality within carceral regimes; the global “War on Drugs”; how carceral states have shaped national politics; and, how global struggles (Cold War and Globalization) and insurgent revolutions (from Vietnam to Central America) shaped carceral regimes. This course is open to all regional fields and it is applicable to the study of a wide variety of historical fields and thematic subjects. Course assignments include weekly meetings, leading an oral presentation, a book review, and a final historical research paper on a subject related to carceral studies.