

### Paper Prompt #1

Write a 5 page paper on *one* of the following four topics. You should use at least three of the sources listed below, in addition to sources listed on the syllabus. Avoid internet sites except for those in the list of recommended sources.

Papers are due **March 6** at the beginning of lecture.

- 1) Explain the concept of judicialization and how it applies to the death penalty. How did frames surrounding the death penalty change after the *Furman* ruling? How does the innocence frame fit into this broader context?
- 2) Explain the difference between corporal and capital punishment. How does the outlaw of corporal punishment influence the application of the death penalty? Pay particular attention to changing trends in the administration of the death penalty.
- 3) Explain the economics of the death penalty. Why does it cost so much to administer death sentences? How has this changed over time, and how does it vary from state to state? How do costs factor into the larger debate over the use of the death penalty?
- 4) Review the case of Todd Willingham or Carlos DeLuna and discuss the types of mistakes that may have occurred in their cases.

A paper topic proposal is due in discussion sections next week (Week 5 on the syllabus). This proposal should consist of the topic you have chosen and the sources you will be using. It should be no more than two or three sentences in length.

Sources:

First, be sure to review the relevant information from class lectures and readings on the syllabus. But you are *expected* to know those. You have to go beyond those.

**Internet sources.** Except for the US Department of Justice (DOJ.gov), official sites of state Corrections Departments or state Justice Departments, and the Death Penalty Information Center (deathpenaltyinfo.org), you should avoid internet sources. Good sources include the “Annual Reports” of the DPIC, Amnesty International (on the situation internationally), and by the US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

Here are some additional sources. Others are acceptable but they should be serious academic sources or extensive investigations of individual cases.

- Banner, Stuart. 2002. *The Death Penalty: An American History*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Bedau, Hugo, and Paul Cassell, eds. 2004. *Debating the Death Penalty*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lord, Charles G., Lee Ross, and Mark R. Lepper. 1979. Biased Assimilation and Attitude Polarization: The Effects of Prior Theories on Subsequently Considered Evidence. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 37 (11): 2098-2109.
- Sundby, Scott E. 2005. *A Life and Death Decision: A Jury Weighs the Death Penalty*. New York: Palgrave.
- Temple, John. 2009. *The Last Lawyer*. Jackson: University of Mississippi Press.
- Grisham, John. 2006. *The Innocent Man*. New York: Doubleday.
- Westervelt, Sandra D., and Kimberly J. Cook. 2012. *After Exoneration*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.
- Garland, David. 2010. *Peculiar Institution: America's Death Penalty in an Age of Abolition*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Jacobs, David and Jason T. Carmichael. 2004. Ideology, Social Threat, and the Death Sentence: Capital Sentences across Time and Space. *Social Forces* 83 (1): 249–78.
- Jacobs, David and Jason T. Carmichael. 2001. The Political Sociology of the Death Penalty: A Pooled Time-Series Analysis. *American Sociological Review* 67 (1): 109–31.
- Acker, James R. and Rose Bellandi. 2011. Firmament or Folly? Protecting the Innocent, Promoting Capital Punishment, and the Paradoxes of Reconciliation *Justice Quarterly*: 1-21.
- Grann, David. 2009. Trial by Fire: Did Texas execute an innocent man? *The New Yorker*, September 7.
- Zalman, Marvin. 2012. Qualitatively Estimating the Incidence of Wrongful Convictions. *Criminal Law Bulletin* 48, 2: 221-279.
- The Wrong Carlos: James Liebman et al. A book-length study with extensive web videos about the possible wrongful execution of Carlos DeLuna, who may have been executed for a crime committed by Carlos Hernandez. <http://www3.law.columbia.edu/hrlr/lc/>