

**Spring  
2023**



**Professor:  
Dr. Mel Webb  
[mel.webb@utsa.edu](mailto:mel.webb@utsa.edu)**

HON 3233 / HUM 4953  
**MORAL IMAGINATION &  
US INCARCERATION**

WHAT'S THE COURSE INVOLVE?

---

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The USA has about 4% of the world's population but over 20% of the world's prison population. This class will examine the ways in which the US prison system challenges our collective and personal moral imaginations. What moral challenges are posed by the US prison system? How do we imagine criminality and appropriate responses to harms? What affect has the realities of incarceration had on our understanding of the humanity of those impacted by it? We will read texts that grapple with these issues, and look for creative ways to address and redress social harms. Students will attend sessions with scholars at Dominguez State Jail as part of the UTSA Philosophy and Literature Circle. **This course counts as an Interdisciplinary Seminar Experience in the Honors College curriculum.**

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING COMPONENT

---

## THE UTSA PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE CIRCLE

Students in this class will participate in The UTSA Philosophy and Literature Circle alongside scholars at the Dominguez State Jail in San Antonio, TX as part of a collaborative learning community. This **involves attending discussion sessions at the Dominguez State Jail on Thursday evenings throughout the semester and a Celebration Ceremony at the end of semester.**

Student participation in this component of the course requires approval as a TDCJ Volunteer, which involves submitting to a background check, and completion of the TDCJ Volunteer Training. All students will meet one-on-one with Dr. Webb to discuss the experiential component.

M / W 11:30AM-12:45PM + R 5:15-9:15PM

---

# TYPES OF SESSIONS

- ▶ **MON & WED - 11:30am-12:45pm - UTSA Main Campus**
  - ▶ ***Debrief sessions of the Circle***
  - ▶ ***Seminar discussions on assigned texts, films, podcasts***
  - ▶ ***Hosting Guest Speakers*** who are activist-scholars directly impacted by the prison system and who are working to reimagine our responses to harm.
- ▶ **THURS - 5:15pm-9:15pm - Dominguez State Jail (6535 Cagnon Rd)**

Each student will attend Thursday evening sessions of the ***Philosophy and Literature Circle*** throughout the semester. Window of time includes transport to and from the jail.

# WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Dr. Webb will host two Zoom information sessions:

- ▶ **Wed., Sept. 28 from 5:30-6:15pm**
- ▶ **Fri., Sept. 30 from 12:00-12:45pm**

*Zoom Link for both sessions:* <https://utsa.zoom.us/j/91677286122>

Can't attend these sessions?

Email Dr. Webb at [mel.webb@utsa.edu](mailto:mel.webb@utsa.edu)  
with any questions about participation

**APPLY BY MON., OCT. 3**

**[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)**