COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION
A study of selected literary classics that treat of crime and punishment. Literary artists from various cultures have described in quite personal terms the experience associated with committing crime, engaging in outlawed political activity, fighting in the courts, being victims of crime and abuse, living in prison, and reentering civil society following imprisonment. We will place their experiences in historical, political and sociological context. We will use film to enhance our understanding of the literature.

REQUIRED READING
Luis Alberto Urrea, *The Devil's Highway*
Ayaan Hirsi Ali, *Infidel*
David Finkel, *The Good Soldiers*

CLASS FORMAT
This course centers around four deeply compelling books, the major themes of which will be illustrated through the use of films, lectures, guest speakers, small group exercises, and discussion. Lectures will be devoted to providing historical, criminological, political background material, while class discussion will center on the analysis and criticism of the books. Our small group exercises will enable us to share thoughts and feelings about the writings and films in a relaxed setting. This should contribute to a sense of collaborative intellectual conversation and good feeling!

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

• Read and analyze literary texts that provide personal accounts of experiences with the criminal justice system.
• Place the personal accounts of experiences in the criminal justice system in sociological, historical, political context.
• See and understand the value of literary accounts in providing a fuller picture of justice and injustice in the world.
## CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Introductions &amp; Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27 &amp; 29</td>
<td><em>The Devil's Highway</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>About the author</td>
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<td>“Illegal” immigration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading: <em>The Devil's Highway</em>, pages 1-70</td>
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<td>February 3 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Film: <em>El Norte</em></td>
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<td>Reading: <em>The Devil's Highway</em>, pages 70-142</td>
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<td>February 10</td>
<td>Guest Speaker</td>
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<td>Reading: <em>The Devil's Highway</em>, pages 143-174</td>
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<td>February 12</td>
<td><em>The Devil's Highway</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading: <em>The Devil's Highway</em>, pages 175 - end</td>
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<td>February 17 &amp; 19*</td>
<td><em>Infidel</em></td>
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<td>About the author</td>
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<td><em>Infidel: Women &amp; Justice</em></td>
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<td>Reading: <em>Infidel</em>, Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td><em>Essay on <em>The Devil's Highway</em> due by 10 p.m.</em></td>
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<td>February 24</td>
<td><em>Infidel</em></td>
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<td>Reading: <em>Infidel</em>, Chapter 3</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td><em>Infidel</em>: Sharia Law</td>
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<td>Reading: <em>Infidel</em>, Chapters 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>Film: Love Crimes of Kabul</td>
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<td><strong>DATE</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOPIC</strong></td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td><em>Infidel</em></td>
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<td>Reading: 6, 7, 8, 9</td>
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<td>Film: <em>Submission</em></td>
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<td>March 7-15</td>
<td>Spring Break!</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
<td><em>Infidel</em> essay due by 10 p.m.</td>
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March 19  
*The Good Soldiers*

About the author
Just War and American Prisons on Foreign Soil
Reading: *The Good Soldiers*, Pages 1-26

March 24 & 26  
*The Good Soldiers*

Reading: Pages 27-116
Film: *American Prisons, Foreign & Domestic*

March 31 & April 2  
*The Good Soldiers*

Reading: Pages 117-219

April 7  
Film: The author interviewed

April 9 & 14  
*The Good Soldiers*

Reading: Pages 220-end

April 16  
*Hurricane*

Actual Innocence and Race & Justice in the U.S.
Reading: pages 1-107

April 21  
Essay on *The Good Soldiers* due by 10 p.m.

April 23 & 28  
*Hurricane*

Reading: pages 108-193

April 30 & May 5  
*Hurricane*

Reading: finish
Film: *The Hurricane*

*Schedule Subject to Change*
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Students will read the four required books. Three essays, each four pages in length, will be assigned. Papers should be computer-processed (double-spaced, 11-12 font), well paragraphed and grammatical. A final examination will cover all of the readings.

Written assignments are due on the following dates:

Devil's Highway essay: February 21 anytime
Infidel essay: March 20 anytime
Good Soldiers essay: April 22 anytime

In the interest of fairness to all, late papers will not receive full credit.

EXAMINATION

A final examination covering the course material will be held on the assigned day: Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

COURSE GRADE

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

1. Three essays 25% each = 75%
2. Final Exam 25%

100%

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are reminded of the university's strict prohibition against cheating and plagiarism. Punishment for this may include expulsion from the university and a grade of F. The McClellan rule will be applied: If three or more words are copied from any source (printed or on the internet), the material must be placed in quotation marks and the source cited.

ATTENDANCE

Since the course is dedicated to reading fascinating books and talking about them, your presence each class period is essential. In light of the fact that there is only one examination, it’s particularly important that everyone attend class each time to ensure that this class not be viewed as undemanding and undisciplined by the university community. Three points will be deducted from the final grade for each absence after your third.
POLICIES

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
Students are reminded that once they enter the classroom, they are expected to behave courteously and respectfully to everyone. They are expected to turn off cell phones and place them out of sight, refrain from talking to neighbors and eating, and they should not leave the classroom unless absolutely necessary to use the bathroom or in case of emergency. Laptops are to be used only by students with special needs after receiving permission from the professor.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Students are reminded of the university's strict prohibition against cheating and plagiarism. Punishment for same may include expulsion from the university and a grade of F. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work. All quoted material must be put in quotation marks and the reference cited. Paraphrasing requires completely rewriting the material, putting it into your own words. Passing off others’ work as your own is a violation of university academic policy.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website: http://cla.tamu.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
EXPECTATIONS
Classes will begin at the scheduled time and run the full session. Please be certain to arrive on time and be prepared to stay until class is dismissed. If you have work obligations that interfere with your ability to do this, please change your work schedule or consider dropping the course. Students are expected to avoid private conversations with their classmates during class. As if you were on an airplane, please turn off your electronic devices upon entering the classroom. Attendance will be taken each class. Please arrange with a fellow student to get handouts, notes and assignments if you miss class.