The U.S. legal system has increasingly relied on imprisonment as an outcome of its immigration and criminal punishment systems in the last several decades. Criminal imprisonment has expanded more than five fold since the 1980's and immigration imprisonment has quadrupled since 2001. This four-day seminar will explore how this expansion has occurred and what its consequences have been. What changes to law and policy are responsible for the increase in imprisonment? How are scholars and advocates from various perspectives evaluating these changes and what are they proposing? What relationship does the question of imprisonment have to other areas of law and policy, such as housing, public finance, education, health care, labor and environmental law? How do definitions of criminality and conditions of targeted imprisonment relate to regimes of racialization and gendering? In this compressed course, we will examine a variety of contexts of imprisonment to engage these questions.

Required Texts:


Recommended Background Reading:

- generationFive, *Toward Transformative Justice*.

Reading Schedule

**January 7**
From *Abolition Now!:

- Ofelia Ortiz Cuevas, “COPS and the Visual Economy of Punishment;”
Martha Excobar, “No One Is Criminal;”
Pete White, “Safer Cities Unplugged.”

From Captive Genders:
Wesley Ware, “‘Rounding Up the Homosexuals’: The Impact of Juvenile Court on Queer and Trans/Gender-Non-Conforming Youth;”
Michelle C. Potts, “Regulatory Sites: Management, Confinement and HIV/AIDS;”
Erica Meiners, “Awful Acts and the Trouble with Normal: A Personal Treatise on Sex Offenders.”

Recommended but optional:
Findings Letter from Investigation of Seattle Police Department by the Department of Justice (Dec 16, 2011) (http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/seattlepd.php)

January 8
Resistance Behind Bars, pp. i-170.

January 9
From Abolition Now:
Dylan Rodriguez, “Warfare and the Terms of Engagement;”
Damien Domenack and Rachael Leiner, “Toxic Connections: Coalition Strategies against Jail Expansion;”

From Captive Genders:

Recommended but optional:
Materials on recent strikes by prisoners:
Democracy Now interview with former Black Panther Elaine Brown about Georgia prisoner strike:  http://www.democracynow.org/2010/12/14/prisoner_advocate_elaine_brown_on_georgia;

January 10
From Abolition Now:
Washington Incarceration Stops Here, “Why Oppose the New Youth Jail?”,

Recommended but optional: