The books I listed are examples of what I might put on the syllabus. But may end up choosing other books

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Michael Collins

English 653 Topics in Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century Literature and Culture:

THE LITERATURE OF JUSTICE & INCARCERATION

Crime, detection, trial, punishment, rehabilitation, freedom: This is the familiar cycle of justice in the United States and many other nations. This class will explore works that represent, theorize, or condemn all of part of this cycle in their effort to explore the intricacies of injustice and its opposite.

Because of the universal salience and interdisciplinarity of the problem of justice, and because this course covers works by both U.S. and non-U.S. authors, this class can serve as fulfillment of a portion of the English without Borders distribution. It also can be used to fulfill the course “organized around concepts, issues, or themes” portion of the distribution requirements. Readings for the course will include theoretical investigations of crime, punishment and justice (works such as Michel Foucault’s Discipline and Punish and David Garland’s Punishment in Modern Society) and literary works such as Franz Kafka’s The Trial, Jean Genet’s Miracle of the Rose, George Jackson’s Soledad Brother, Etheridge Knight’s The Essential Etheridge Knight, Toni Morrison’s Song of Solomon, John Okada’s The No No Boy, and Ezra Pound’s The Pisan Cantos.

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