This is an intensive short course that meets on a special schedule during the semester.

PUNISHMENT IN AMERICAN LAW, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY

Course Number: LITG 7032 001       Call Number: 000129

Semester: Spring 2015
Professor: Barkow (Chesley Distinguished Visitor)
Credits: 1 classroom
Primary Basis for the Grade: Class participation and the preparation of a 5 – 7 page paper at the conclusion of the course. The grade will be on the scale of High Pass, Pass, Low Pass, Fail.
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment: Open
Meets Seminar Requirement? No
Meets Writing Requirement? No
Meets Client Counseling Requirement? No
Meeting Times: Saturday, 2/14/15 –1:30pm to 5:30pm; Sunday, 2/15/15 – 9:00am to 12:00pm  -and- 1:30pm to 4:30pm; and Sunday, 2/22/15 – 2:30pm to 5:45pm.
Note: Attendance at Professor Barkow’s public lecture on Monday, 2/23/15 (12:15pm – 1:15pm) is mandatory.
Location: Room 118

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will investigate the state’s power to punish in the U.S. We will focus on two unique aspects of American punishment: mass incarceration and the death penalty. We will read from a variety of sources, including Bryan Stevenson’s book, Just Mercy, magazine articles, and cases from the Supreme Court of the United States.

The goal is to better understand why the American system looks the way it does and to consider possible avenues for improving the administration of punishment in the U.S., including changes in Supreme Court doctrine, prosecutorial charging decisions, sentencing laws and practices, and the administration of clemency.

Grades will be based on course participation and the preparation of a paper between 5-7 pages at the conclusion of the course. The grade will be on the scale of High Pass, Pass, Low Pass, Fail.

Please note: This is an intensive course that meets over a condensed time period. Students must attend every class session. Do not sign up for this class if you must miss one of these sessions.
Rachel E. Barkow
Segal Family Professor of Regulatory Law and Policy
New York University School of Law

Rachel Barkow’s scholarship focuses on applying the lessons and theory of administrative and constitutional law to the administration of criminal justice. She has written more than 20 articles, recently joined the leading criminal law casebook as a co-author, and is recognized as one of the country’s leading experts on criminal law and policy. She received the NYU Distinguished Teaching Award in 2013 and the Law School’s Podell Distinguished Teaching Award in 2007. In June 2013, the Senate confirmed her as a member of the United States Sentencing Commission. Since 2010, she has also been a member of the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office Conviction Integrity Policy Advisory Panel. After graduating from Northwestern University (BA ’93), Barkow attended Harvard Law School (’96), where she won the Sears Prize. She served as a law clerk to Judge Laurence H. Silberman of the DC Circuit and Justice Antonin Scalia of the US Supreme Court. Barkow was an associate at Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel in Washington, DC, before joining the NYU Law faculty.