

**OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE – OLLI
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY**

Life in Prison: Art vs. Reality

Course Outline – July 2018

MARK E. ROSEMAN, JD

July 10

1. **INTRODUCTION** – General Overview
2. **OVERRIDING CONTEXT** - Prison Reform, and Categories of reformers
3. **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**
 - a. Explore reform issues, as expressed through different artistic lenses, on a psychological field trip about the criminal justice system's emotional/social impact on men, women, and families.
 - b. Discover the power of knowledge upon prison reform: Proposition voting, conversation, interpretation of news, and the scourge of mass incarceration.

Experiencing Something You May Never Experience, Through Alternative Means

[Haven't Been There, Haven't Done That](#)

4. **THE ARTS RELEVANT TO THE COURSE AS PRESENTED THROUGH:**

Poetry, Plays, Literature, Paintings, and Film

- Application - PRISON REFORM TRIFACTOR:
 - i. Systems
 - ii. Incarceration
 - iii. Reentry

THEMES: FEAR, ERODED DIGNITY, HUMILIATION, EMOTIONAL DARKNESS

Examples

- 1) Oscar Wilde - *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* (Poem, 1896)
- 2) Tennessee Williams - *Not About Nightingales* (Play, 1938/1998)
- 3) Bernard Malamud *The Prison* (Literature (short story), 1950)
- 4) Sister Helen Prejean, *Dead Man Walking* (Book/Film, 1995)
- 5) Salvador Dali - *Melting clocks, The Persistence of Memory* (Painting, 1931)

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1. PAINTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHY, TATTOOS & PERFORMANCES

- 2. Frederick Douglass** – Photography to show the link between art and reform.

Frederick Douglass -*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* (Memoir, 1845)

- 3. Steven Burton.** *Skin Deep – Looking Beyond the Tattoos.* Tattoos as an expressive art form (2017).
- 4. Paul Gauguin.** *The Arlesienne (Mistral)*, (1888)
- 5. Pablo Picasso.** *The Old Guitarist* (1903)
- 6. Leon Golub.** *Interrogation II* (1981)
- 7. Sigmar Polke.** *Raised Chair with Geese* (1987)

Theatrical Performances

- **Daniel Beaty.** [Knock Knock](#) (2014)
 - **Frank Farrell** performs [Shakespeare's Richard II, Act 5 scene 5.](#) (2010)
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Plays & Films

Theatrical Devices: Dialogue & Suspension of Reality

- **Arthur Miller**, *Incident at Vichy* (1964) Play
 - **Stanford Prison Experiment** (2015) Film
 - **Shawshank Redemption** – (1994) Novella/Film
 - **The Green Mile - Stephen King** (1999) Novel/Film
 - **Les Misérables – Victor Hugo** (1862) Novel, Play, Film)
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Prison Literature/Political Prisoners & Memoirs

- **Mark E. Roseman**, *Derailed* (Memoir, 2016)
- **Ngugi Wa Thiong’O**, *Wrestling with the Devil* (Memoir, 2018)
- **Nelson Mandela**, *Conversations with Myself* (Memoir, 2010)
- **Franz Kafka**, *The Trial* (Novel, 1925)

Discussion and Conclusions