SUMMER COURSE: Mass Incarceration & the Literature of Confinement
(AMER 0094A or PJS 050-03 or WGSS 185-08)

Course taught at MCI Shirley: men’s medium security prison in Shirley, MA; transportation from Medford campus provided by Tisch College
Instructor: Hilary Binda
Class Dates: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 to Friday, Jun 29, 2018
Day(s) & Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-4:30  (Allow additional time for commute & prison security clearance each week.)

This “Inside-Out” course on mass incarceration and the literature of confinement will include an equal number of incarcerated and non-incarcerated students taking the same course together for Tufts college credit. The course will usually meet at the men’s medium-security prison in Shirley, MA, and Tisch College will provide transportation by van from the Medford campus. Together, we will read, discuss, and write on literary texts directly and indirectly pertaining to the experience of confinement. This course will ask how writers from different historical periods, regions, cultures, and genders have understood different kinds of discipline, confinement, and freedom. What are some of the effects on human beings of various modes of confinement -- economic, educational, legal, physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and social -- and how are these effects informed and mitigated by resistance? This course includes texts by the following writers: Frederick Douglass, Paul Laurence Dunbar, James Joyce, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Langston Hughes, Herman Melville, Lorraine Hansberry, James Baldwin, George Saunders, Sandra Cisneros, and Suzan-Lori Parks. What non-incarcerated students take from this class is rooted in their commitment to being present.

⇒ This course requires some pre-course readings, a pre-course training by the professor, and a pre-course training at the prison.

⇒ SPACE IS LIMITED: those interested should contact the professor as soon as possible before registration begins to set up an informal interview: HILARY.BINDA@TUFTS.EDU. Faculty signature/permission is required for registration.