Over the past forty years the United States has come to incarcerate more people than any other country and more than at any time in its history.

U.S. prisons hold people of color in numbers far out of proportion to their representation in the broader population and those who land behind bars are also disproportionately poor. Constructing this prison nation has required new efforts at criminalization, a backlash to civil rights gains, new resources for policing, and an overhaul of laws. This academic minor allows students to draw from courses in myriad disciplines to try to make sense of this punitive turn, to see how real people experience it, and to imagine alternatives to it.

See examples of CJM courses at myumi.ch/ aK5mA

If you have any questions about the minor, or would like to add it, email Dr. Heather Thompson at hthompsn@umich.edu