Catching up and review

Readings: Botched execution materials

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Botched Executions

• Ron Andrews cases
  – Even when not “botched” they are hard to experience.

• Readings: Jesse Tafero case, 2 page newspaper article, how he was burned alive, suit from the next person in line seeking to avoid the same thing...
Being “Westinghoused”

- First electrocution article, 1890
  - “we live in a higher civilization today”
- Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse battled over whose system (AC: Edison, or DC: Westinghouse) was safer.
- Edison helped use the Westinghouse system.
- Westinghouse donated to the defense of the inmate...
The never-ending search

• Another paradox:
  – Attention the crime: more support for execution
  – Attention to the inmate: less support
  – Attention to execution methods, details of how it goes.
    • Many in the public might well be comfortable with battery acid, terrible suffering, or at least they say so.
    • But the constitution prohibits unnecessary suffering.
  – Hard to execute without any suffering
  – Plus, those who do it generally have very little practice, so errors are not uncommon
How opponents have framed the debate

- Race
- Innocence
- Cost
- Errors
- Geographic arbitrariness
- Lack of deterrence (but this is debated)
- Gruesome spectacles

- The Big Puzzle: Why have the opponents been so successful in this framing process? Will it continue?
A frustration for death penalty advocates

Rather than a “clean” debate on the merits and the abstract principles of the death penalty and whether it is merited or has a place, we have these “messy” debates about details.

Framing matters.
OK, what you really want to know

• Test structure:
• Similar to the quizzes, but longer.
• Also some identifications.
  – One phrase: define or identify the term
  – One phrase: explain its importance or meaning
  – Half credit for each part of the answer.
How to study?

• Class next Monday: Quick review of the reading, then review and questions.

• Class next Wednesday: Review and questions.

• Exam: wide range of topics, not that much depth on each topic. Do not over-study one topic to the exclusion of the others.