

Study Guide: The University Lecture Series  
*The Death Penalty in America: A Fading Practice?*  
Wednesday, September 19

Speaker: David Oshinsky  
Panelists: John Butler, Sheldon Ekland-Olson, George Forgie, Camille Parmesan,  
Michael Starbird

Synopsis/Key Points of Lecture:

Professor Oshinsky will focus his comments on research from his most current project, the history of the death penalty in the United States.

Discussion Points for Leaders:

- What factors are most important in shaping your own views about the death penalty?
- What, to your thinking, are the most powerful arguments for and against capital punishment?
- The death penalty in America today is very much a regional issue, with the vast majority of executions occurring in the South. Why is this?
- The United States is one of the very few western nations that still retains the death penalty. Do you believe it will ever be abolished here?