Course Syllabus
CCJS 452: Treatment of Offenders and Delinquents
Fall 2014
MW 2:00-3:15pm
Biology Psychology Building 1243

Professor
Dr. Lauren Porter
Office Hours: W 11:00-12:30, or by appointment
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Course Description
This is an introductory course to the study of corrections in the United States. Students are expected to have a comprehensive understanding of American punishment, including both historical trends and current issues.

Course Prerequisite
CCJS 105 or CCJS 350, or permission from the department; AND CCJS 300.

Required Text

*Readings marked with an asterisk will be available on Canvas. Please be certain that you can access the course through ELMS. I will also be using this site to make announcements and post grades, so please monitor the email account registered with the Canvas system.*

Course Evaluation
Exams: 15% each (4 exams)
Quizzes and In-class Assignments: 10%
Taking Sides: 15%
Reaction Paper: 5%
Participation: 10%
***Extra Credit*** (See below)

Exams
Each exam will cover material from lectures, the textbook, and supplemental readings available online. Exams will NOT be cumulative and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. A study guide will be provided one week prior to each exam.

Quizzes and In-Class Assignments
There will be a handful of short quizzes administered throughout the semester to assess whether students are keeping up with assigned readings. There will also be in-class activities, which will mostly take the form of group work.
**Taking Sides Paper**
This paper should be 4-5 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font. Students will read two viewpoints on the death penalty, which are available on the Canvas website in the folder, “Taking Sides Assignment.” Students must summarize each author’s argument for or against the use of the death penalty. They must also find at least ONE research article written in the past ten years and discuss how these findings might contribute to this debate. In other words, would these findings lend support for a “pro” or “anti” position? Finally, students must pick a side and draw on these readings to explain their position. **DUE NOVEMBER 26**

**Reaction Paper**
The reaction paper should be 2-3 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font. Students must respond to the film, “Solitary Nation.” This is a documentary produced by Frontline and will be shown during class. Students are expected to take notes and to write a paper reflecting on the issues discussed in the film. Students are also expected to relate the film to course material. **DUE OCTOBER 22.**

**Participation**
Students are expected to attend class and participate. Although attendance is not mandatory, this is not an online course and therefore attendance is expected. If you do miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to catch up on missed material.

**Extra Credit**
There will be one extra credit opportunity, which will amount to a possible 10 extra points on an exam (The assignment will be graded out of 10 points). Students must find a research article in the flagship journal of the field, *Criminology*, and this article must be related to the course and it must be approved by me. Students will then write a three page typed summary (double-spaced) summarizing the article and critically analyzing its contents. If you choose to complete this assignment, it MUST be turned in no later than December 1, 2014. Also, I must approve the article at least one week prior to the due date. No opportunities for extra credit will be offered after December 1.

**Course Policies**

**Late or Missed Work:**
Students will not be permitted to turn in late work or make-up exams except for in the following circumstances: a medical problem, a death in the immediate family, a religious holiday, participation in university activities at the request of university authorities, or other compelling circumstances beyond the students’ control. If you know that you will be absent on the day of an exam, you will be expected to take the exam PRIOR to the exam date. Failure to do so will result in a “zero” grade for the exam. You must also notify me at least ONE week prior to this date.

**Addendum on Medical Absences:**
The four exams and the papers are considered to be Major Scheduled Grading Events and therefore the new university medical excuse policy (http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/V-100G.pdf) which allows one student-signed honor statement attesting to illness does NOT apply to them. In the event you become chronically absent, missing more than two consecutive weeks of class due to the same persistent illness, this must be verified by a health professional in writing and be brought to my attention in writing. Any absences from Major Scheduled Grading Events will be counted as zeroes in the event you have failed to inform me of these developments within one week of the grades for the remainder of the class being posted on Canvas.
Grade Disputes:
If you have questions or concerns about your grade(s) and believe I should review them, you must submit a written request over email to me that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within one week of the day that grades for the relevant assignment are disseminated.

Academic Integrity:
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and any violations will be reported to the Honor Council. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication of information used in assignments, plagiarism, and knowingly facilitating the academic dishonesty of another. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Honor Council, please visit the following website: http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/Default.aspx.

Students with Disabilities:
I will be willing to make necessary accommodations for students who are registered with the Disability Support Service (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation letter. This form must be presented to me ASAP. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS. DSS students who are requesting to take their exams at the DSS Center need to provide me with a Test Authorization Form for each exam that must be turned in to me no later than one week prior to each exam. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class.

Athletes:
Official athletic schedules must be submitted to me. Practices do not count as an excused absence; in cases of an excused absence (e.g., a game), students are expected to arrange with me make-up exams/assignments. Athletes who miss exams/assignments due to games or other commitments, yet never submitted an official athletic schedule, and never spoke with me, will receive a grade of zero for the relevant assignment.

Inclement Weather Policy:
On occasion, classes may be cancelled due to inclement weather. If the university is closed on the day a graded item is scheduled the graded assignment will be rescheduled for the next class meeting in which the university is open.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

PART I. INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN CORRECTIONS

Week 1 – Course Introduction

Wednesday (Sep. 3) – Course Introduction

Week 2 – Punishment in America: Past to Present

Monday (Sep. 8) – Why do we Punish?
  • Chapters 1 and 2 in American Corrections in Brief
Wednesday (Sep. 10) – History of Punishment in America

**Week 3 – Punishment in America: Current Practices and Trends**

Monday (Sep. 15) – The War on Drugs and the Punitive Turn

Wednesday (Sept. 17) – The Prison Boom

**Week 4 – Sentencing**

Monday (Sep. 22) – The Sentencing Process

Wednesday (Sept. 24) – Sentencing Outcome Disparities

**PART II. THE PRISON EXPERIENCE**

**Week 5 – Exam 1; Begin The Prison Experience**

Monday (Sep. 29) – Exam 1

Wednesday (Oct. 1) – Jails vs. Prisons
  • Chapters 3 and 6 in *American Corrections in Brief*

**Week 6 – The Prison Experience**

Monday (Oct. 6) – Life Inside Prison
  • Chapter 7 in *American Corrections in Brief*

Wednesday (Oct. 8) – Prison Staff
Week 7 – Inmate Health and Wellbeing

Monday (Oct. 13) – Inmate Health

Wednesday (Oct. 15) – Women in Prison and Elderly Inmates
  • Chapter 9 in *American Corrections in Brief*

Week 8 – Film Week

Monday (Oct. 20) – Film: Solitary Nation

Wednesday (Oct. 22) – Film: The Prison State
  • REACTION PAPER DUE

PART III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF INCARCERATION

Week 9 – Exam 2; Begin Consequences of Incarceration

Monday (Oct. 27) – Exam 2

Wednesday (Oct. 29) – The Status of Felons in America

Week 10 – Punishment and Inequality

Monday (Nov. 3) – Incarceration, Inequality, and the Revolving Door

Wednesday (Nov. 5) – Social and Political Consequences of Incarceration
  • * Uggen, Christopher, Jeff Manza, and Behrens, Angela. 2004. "‘Less than the Average Citizen’: Stigma, Role Transition and the Civic Reintegration of Convicted Felons," in *After Crime and Punishment: Pathways to Offender Reintegration*: 261.

Week 11 – Punishment and Inequality, Cont’d

Monday (Nov. 10) – Incarceration and Health
Wednesday (Nov. 12) – Reverberating Effects: The Future of Inequality

Week 12 – Exam

Monday (Nov. 17) – Exam 3

Wednesday (Nov. 19) – NO CLASS – AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING

**PART IV. OTHER SANCTIONS, SPECIAL TOPICS AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

**Week 13 – OTHER SANCTIONS**

Monday (Nov. 24): Probation
  • Chapters 4 & 5 in *American Corrections in Brief*

Wednesday (Nov. 26): The Death Penalty
  • Chapter 11 in *American Corrections in Brief*
  • *Taking Sides: Issue: Is Capital Punishment a Bad Public Policy?*
  • TAKING SIDES PAPER DUE

**Week 14 – OTHER SANCTIONS, Cont’d**

Monday (Dec. 1): The Re-emergence of Shame and Banishment

Wednesday (Dec. 3): Restorative Justice

**Week 15 – LAST WEEK**

Monday (Dec 8) – Treatment of Sex Offenders

Wednesday (Dec 10) – Juvenile Corrections
  • Chapter 12 in *American Corrections in Brief*

**FINAL EXAM – DECEMBER 18 – 1:30-3:30**