CCJS 342: Corrections
Syllabus — Spring 2017

Class meets: MWF 12:00-12:50pm
Room: Tydings Hall 2106

Professor:
Tom Scott
2220Y Lefrak Hall (located in CCJS suite)
Email: tscott1@umd.edu
Office hours: Wednesday 2:00-4:00pm, or by appointment

Course prerequisite: CCJS 100: Introduction to Criminal Justice

Course description:
The field of corrections covers the punishment, treatment, and supervision of persons who have (for the most part) been convicted of a crime. This class will introduce students to the history of the American correctional system, touching briefly on how it compares to other national systems, and will cover select topics from various institutes and practices within the correctional system. By the end of the semester, students will be expected to have a broad understanding of the various components of the American correctional system, and be able to think critically about how and why America administers punishment.

Course Website:
I will be using Canvas to make announcements, post grades, readings, and other documents. Please make certain that you have access to this course through ELMS (http://www.elms.umd.edu) and that the email listing you have attached to this account is active and routinely monitored. You can log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password, select 342 from your courses.

Required text:

Other required readings will be available on the ELMS course website.

Graded assignments:
Exam 1 (non-cumulative): 100
Exam 2 (non-cumulative): 100
Exam 3 (non-cumulative): 100
Final Exam (cumulative): 200
Book Report: 50
Grading scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97%+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93%-96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80%-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77%-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73%-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70%-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67%-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63%-66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60%-62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 60%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I will update grades on Canvas after each exam so you may keep track of your progress in the course.

Assignments

Mid-term Exams:

This class will have 3 non-cumulative mid-term exams that will cover material from lectures and assigned course materials. Mid-term exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Although you will not be able to keep your exams, you are welcome to set aside a time with me to review them in my office. As many of the questions on the final exam will resemble the mid-term exam questions, I suggest doing this at least once before the final.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be cumulative. It will cover material from lectures and assigned course materials and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Book Report:

As the primary writing assignment for this class, students must read a book on one aspect of the correctional system and write a brief academic book review. These book reviews must be submitted to me electronically by April 21 at noon. Late work will not be accepted for credit, so please plan to have it submitted well before the scheduled deadline. I will provide more instruction and examples on Canvas, but you may also see http://www.wendybelcher.com/writing-advice/how-to-write-book-review/ for instruction. Students must select one of the books listed below. If you have an interest in a topic on or know of an academic book that is related to the correctional system but not shown below, I will entertain (but not guarantee) alternative requests until February 8. I suggest purchasing, borrowing, or requesting a copy from the library sooner rather than later.

Monetary sanctions: Alexis Harris (2016). *A pound of flesh: Monetary sanctions as punishment for the poor.*


**Extra-Credit Option:**

As an optional (and highly recommended) extra-credit opportunity, students may read and write a review of “My Four Months as a Private Prison Guard” *Mother Jones* July/August 2016, available at http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/06/cca-private-prisons-corrections-corporation-inmates-investigation-bauer. This review should include a detailed summary of the article, and, more importantly, an identification of important class themes that you notice within the text. As your grade is partly determined by your ability to relate the article to things you learn in class, you should wait toward the end of the semester to complete this assignment. I will only accept completed electronic copies submitted between mid-term exams 2 (April 5) and 3 (May 5). I will provide more information about this assignment in class.

**Participation/Classroom Etiquette:**

Students are expected to attend class and participate. Although attendance is not mandatory, this is not an online course and therefore attendance is expected. Around 66% of exam questions will come from lecture (33% from assigned readings), so it is in your best interest to attend and take notes during class. In addition, as we will have periodic discussions during lecture, I maintain the right to incorporate important points discussed during class into the exams. If you do miss class, it is YOUR responsibility to catch up on missed material. Also, please be respectful of your
fellow students. Consistently arriving late and/or leaving class early will not be tolerated. Importantly, although healthy and challenging discussion is encouraged, no rude or indecent comments will be tolerated. Finally, turn off your phones, IPods, recorders, or other electronics that can be disruptive. You may take notes on a laptop or tablet, but if you are clearly using them for other purposes (e.g., social media) or causing a distraction to others you will be asked to take notes on pen/paper for the rest of class.

Course Evaluation:

Your feedback about this course is very important to me and therefore we will do several forms of evaluation throughout this semester. One way is to fill out the anonymous online evaluation at the end of the semester. CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations for Spring 2017 courses between April 30 and May 12. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations. I will also hand out in class an anonymous evaluation sometime during the middle of the semester to elicit feedback on how the course is going. I greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete both evaluations in order to improve the course for you and others.

Class policies and university information

You are expected to know the policies and rights established for undergraduates at UMD: http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html. I outline some of the most relevant policies below.

Academic honesty:

I expect all students to maintain academic honesty/integrity and the larger University honor code throughout the semester. This includes among other things not cheating on exams and not turning in plagiarized or passing off as your own someone else’s work. Plagiarism = intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic course or exercise. I will immediately submit any violations of the honor code to the Student Honor Council. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity and the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html.

Disability support:

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form, which has been updated for the Spring 2017 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than February 8, 2017. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has not been reviewed by DSS after February 8, 2017. DSS students who are requesting to take their exams at the DSS Center need to provide me with a testing form for each exam that must be turned in to me no later than 1 week prior to each exam. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class.
Makeup exam policy:

Exams are considered to be major scheduled graded events and therefore the University medical excuse policy that allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them. I must be notified in person or by email PRIOR to missing an exam for me to consider giving you a makeup. If you have a problem on the day of an exam, email me immediately and I can advise you what to do. **If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam with an approved absence, you will be expected to take the exam prior to the exam due date.**

Events that justify an excused absence include religious observances; mandatory military obligation; illness of the student or illness of an immediate family member; participation in university activities at the request of university authorities; and compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control (e.g., death in the family, required court appearance). For absences students must provide verifiable documentation upon request (e.g., religious calendar, court summons, death announcement, medical record, etc.).

Religious observations

If you are unable to take any exams due to a religious observance, you will need to discuss this with me by February 8, 2017.

Athletes:

Official athletic schedules must be submitted to me by February 8, 2017. 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 to be taken before the exam date. Athletes who miss exams 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 an exam is scheduled the exam will be rescheduled for the next class meeting in which the university is open.

Copyright

The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).
### Course schedule (subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/25</td>
<td>Review syllabus; brief introduction to corrections</td>
<td>Read syllabus and bring to class</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>Continued introduction to corrections</td>
<td>Read pages 1-15 in textbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/30</td>
<td>History of American correctional system</td>
<td>Read pages 15-29 in textbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Philosophies of punishment</td>
<td>Read Chapter 2 in textbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>Discuss changes in American penal philosophy</td>
<td>Review notes from last two weeks and be prepared to discuss</td>
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<td>2/20</td>
<td>Jail and pre-trial detention</td>
<td>Read Chapter 3 in textbook.</td>
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<td>2/24</td>
<td>Mid-Term EXAM 1</td>
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<td>2/27</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>Prisons</td>
<td>Read Chapter 6 in textbook.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Assignments</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/29</td>
<td>Prison management and administration</td>
<td>Read Chapter 8 in textbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31</td>
<td>Inmate rights</td>
<td>Read pages 276-297 in textbook</td>
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<td>4/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mid-Term EXAM 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
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<td>4/10</td>
<td>Monetary sanctions</td>
<td>Read Harris, Evans, &amp; Beckett (2010). Drawing blood from stones: Legal debt and social inequality in the contemporary United States.</td>
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<td>4/12</td>
<td>Juvenile corrections</td>
<td>Read Chapter 12 in textbook</td>
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<td>4/14</td>
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<td>4/17</td>
<td>Special populations</td>
<td>Read Chapter 9 in textbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/19</td>
<td>Incarceration and health</td>
<td>Read Binswanger et al. (2011). &quot;From the prison door right to the sidewalk, everything went downhill.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Material</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>Reentry/Desistance</td>
<td>Read Chapter 10 in textbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/3</td>
<td>Mid-Term EXAM 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>Looking to the future</td>
<td>Read Chapter 13 in textbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>Review for final exam</td>
<td>Come to class with questions!</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5/18</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM from 8:00-10:00am in same room</td>
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