

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
CRIJ 7336
Seminar in American Corrections
Fall 2017

<i>Professor:</i>	Erin Orrick, Ph.D.	<i>Class Hours:</i>	Thursday 9:00am - 11:50am
<i>Office:</i>	C207	<i>Classroom:</i>	A213
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GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

- 1) Beccaria, Cesare. *On Crimes & Punishment*. The complete translated work from any publisher.
- 2) Conover, Ted. 2001. *Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing*. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group.
- 3) Kerman, Piper. 2011. *Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison*. Random House Publishing.
- 4) Sykes, Gresham. 2007. *The Society of Captives: A Study of a Maximum Security Prison, 7th edition*. Princeton University Press.
- 5) Other readings/articles as assigned (see course schedule).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In-depth examination of the various issues and problems in corrections as they relate to administration and management. A variety of problems are explored, including the philosophical justification for prisons, personnel management, sentencing and its implications, community-based corrections, rehabilitation, judicial intervention, and correctional reform.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Following the successful completion of this course, students should have an understanding of:

- The historical development of corrections
- The impact of the prison environment on inmates and staff
- The challenges facing prisoner reentry and reintegration

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Attendance/Participation

Each week a student will be assigned to lead the discussion in class. However, all students are expected to come to class prepared to participate, having read the assigned materials. Class participation will **make up 10% of your final grade**.

Please notify me ahead of time if you will be unable to attend an upcoming class (if possible). *If absent from class, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what you missed. Being absent does NOT excuse you from anything that was discussed or done in class.* All assignments must be turned in on time to receive full credit.

Article/Book Reviews

For each class meeting, starting week 2, you may choose to write a reaction essay. There are 9 weeks of reading assignments, your grade will be based on your best 5 essays. Essays must be 3-5 double-spaced, typed pages. Please use 12-point Times New Roman font and 1" margins. You do not need to include a reference page (unless you use outside sources), but you should follow proper APA format for citations in the text of your paper, especially if you use quotes.

The essay should be a summary of and critical evaluation of the assigned readings. You should summarize the major points of the readings and discuss your reflections on/reactions to the material. It may be helpful to focus your essay on a specific theme, problem, or critical issue raised by the readings and discuss your thoughts about it. The essay should also include at least two questions or issues raised by the readings that you would like to discuss in class.

Research Paper

Throughout the semester, you will develop an empirical research project on a topic related to corrections. The final product should be a paper that looks like the front section of a manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal, complete through a proposed Methods section, as well as Discussion and Conclusion. Ideally, the manuscript should be between 20-25 pages double-spaced, including references.

Note: The best papers are not written once, but are instead edited and re-written many times. Work on the research paper will mirror this process. The research paper will be developed over the course of several stages and revisions. (Research Topic and Question(s) with Abstract Collection – 10 pts, Abstract – 10 pts, Introduction with Outline – 15 pts, First Draft – 20 pts, Peer Reviews – 10 pts, Final Paper – 35 pts). See course schedule for due dates of each component of the paper. In addition, each of you will also serve as an ad hoc reviewer for two of your classmates' papers.

Final Exam

A final exam will be administered in class on the date listed in the course schedule. The exam will consist of a selection of essay questions.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the research paper (40%), article/book reviews (25%), final exam (25%), and class participation (10%).

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS: Assignment make-ups/extensions will NOT be considered unless there is documented proof of an excused absence and I am contacted BEFORE the due date. Late assignments will receive a 10% penalty per day late.

GRADING SCALE:

Excellent Work = A = 90-100%
Good Work = B = 80-89%
Average Work = C = 70-79%
Unsatisfactory Work = D = 60-69%
Unacceptable Work = F = < 60%

COURSE POLICIES

STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Classroom Citizenship

Students who are actively engaged learn more, earn better grades, and are better-informed citizens of their university and communities. You are actively encouraged to be an engaged and positive participant in our classroom. Our classroom is a safe space to share your experiences, thoughts, and critiques of criminological research and topics. I encourage critical thinking and welcome open discussions of the material we will review. We will discuss many sensitive topics during the semester. **I expect everyone to participate in the discussions in an appropriate manner.** Maintaining a different viewpoint does not require negative behavior or disrespectful comments. If a student is disrespectful in their behaviors or language, they will be asked to leave the class and may suffer a deduction in their grade.

Plan to attend class the entire scheduled time for each day per your course calendar. Excused absences are limited to observed religious holidays or official SHSU events (athletics, debate, etc.) that students notify me of **IN ADVANCE** via email or during class time. Students on official SHSU business should bring me an official notice from your organization of class conflicts so that alternative arrangements can be made. Students who have a conflict due to religious practices need to get with me at the beginning of the semester and let me know what these dates will be so that alternate arrangements can be made for exams or other assignments.

***Students are required to check **Blackboard** for class announcements and course materials. I will post all announcements in Blackboard. The class schedule and lectures may change without prior notice. Readings outside the textbooks will be available via Blackboard or through the SHSU library. It is your responsibility to download and read these articles prior to their assigned due date and come to class prepared to critically discuss them along with the text chapters.

Please note that while I allow students to use laptops to take notes during class lectures, any abuse of this privilege will result in all computers being banned during class time. I reserve the right to change this policy at any time.

CELL PHONE POLICY

***Before class starts please turn off (or silence) your cell phones. Engaging in voice communication using a cell phone or similar communication device during class is prohibited. Engaging in text communication during class is discouraged, although non-disruptive occasional use is permitted. Persistent or extended texting is, however, not allowed. Per University policy communication using any electronic device during an in-class examination is prohibited.

Reading Assignments & Academic Course Calendar for CRIJ 7336

Fall 2017

All readings are due on the date indicated

Week	Date	TOPIC	READINGS	Assignment Due
Week 1	August 24	Introduction		
Week 2	August 31	WORKING DAY		
Week 3	September 7	History & Purpose of Punishment	Beccaria – <i>On Crimes & Punishment</i> Tonry (2009)	Research Topic and Questions (with 5 abstracts)
Week 4	September 14	Deterrence	Apel (2013) Kleck et al. (2005) Kovandzic et al. (2009) Pogarsky (2002)	Abstract
Week 5	September 21	Incapacitation	Auerhahn (1999) Gottfredson & Hirschi (1986) Nagin, Cullen, & Jonson (2009) Piquero & Blumstein (2007)	
Week 6	September 28	Rehabilitation	Cullen, Jonson, & Nagin (2011) Martinson, R. (1974) Ward & Stewart (2003)	Introduction/Outline
Week 7	October 5	Prison Experience	Sykes – <i>The Society of Captives</i>	
Week 8	October 12	Prison Tour (TBD)		
Week 9	October 19	Prison Experience	Conover - <i>NewJack</i>	
Week 10	October 26	Prison Experience - Women	Kerman - <i>Orange is the New Black</i>	Draft for Peer Review
Week 11	November 2	Reentry	Durose et al. (2014) Petersilia (2004) Travis & Petersilia (2001) Visser & Travis (2003)	
Week 12	November 9	Community Corrections	Cochran et al. (2014) Petersilia et al. (1985) Spelman (1995)	Peer Reviews
Week 13	November 16	ASC – NO CLASS MEETING		
Week 14	November 23	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
Week 15	November 30	Contemporary Issues	Frost & Clear (2012) Mears (2013) Pettit & Western (2004) Uggen & Manza (2002)	Final Paper
Week 16	December 7	FINAL EXAM @ 9 a.m.		

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus and corresponding schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor without prior notice.