



Locked Up! Criminal Courts and Corrections

**Syllabus for Sociology 3564-10
Fall Semester 2013**

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Text: Corrections: An Introduction, 3/E, (Richard Seiter). Published by Prentice Hall ISBN-13 978-0-13-506082-7

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PART I: PUTTING CORRECTIONS IN PERSPECTIVE

- 1. History of Crime and Punishment**
- 2. Sentencing and the Correctional Process**

PART II: CORRECTIONAL POLICY AND OPERATIONS

- 3. Jails**
- 4. Probation and Intermediate Sanctions**
- 5. Prisons**
- 6. Parole and Prisoner Reentry**

PART III: CORRECTIONAL CLIENTS

- 7. The Clients of Adult Correctional Agencies**
- 8. The Juvenile Correctional System**
- 9. Special Offenders**

PART IV: PRISON LIFE

- 10. The Management of Prisons**
- 11. Prison Life for Inmates**
- 12. The World of Prison Staff**
- 13. Custody and Treatment**
- 14. Legal Issues and the Death Penalty**

PART V: CORRECTIONAL CHALLENGES

- 15. Issues in Corrections**
- 16. Questions Regarding the Future of Corrections**

Text: The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness
(Alexander, Michelle) The New Press; ISBN:978-1-59558-103-7

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Forward (Cornel West)
Preface
Introduction

Chapters:

1. The Rebirth of Caste
2. The Lockdown
3. The Color of Justice
4. The Cruel Hand
5. The New Jim Crow
6. The Fire This Time

Course Overview

The objective of this course is to provide students with an overview of criminal courts and corrections which are fundamental components of the criminal justice system. The course will focus on the etiology, structure, and function of each of these components as well as their pivotal relationship to the criminal justice system. Litigation that has had a major impact on the function of courts and corrections will be examined within the framework of the Bill of Rights and due process issues. The importance and impact that courts and corrections have on society as a whole will also be explored. Some attention will be devoted to philosophical issues, questions, and assumptions which serve as a foundation for the day-to-day operations of courts and corrections. Reading assignments and lectures will be supplemented with guest speakers and videos. Class participation is encouraged.

Court topics to be covered include: criminal responsibility, basis of law, rights of the accused, federal courts, state courts, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, defendants and victims, arrest, charging, arraignment, preliminary hearing, bail, negotiated pleas, trials and juries, sentencing, drug courts, and appellate courts.

Correction topics to be covered include: history of prisons, philosophical theories of punishment, inmate demographics, female offenders, structure of prisons, overcrowding, correctional officers, prison litigation, probation and parole, shock incarceration, boot camps, intermediate punishments, rehabilitation, the “what works” paradigm, cognitive interventions, capital punishment, and the future of corrections.

Course Objectives:

1. Gain a familiarity with the sources of law and structure of the American legal system
2. Understand the evolution of the American criminal court system
3. Know the functions of the various professions in the criminal court system
4. Learn about the importance of the supreme court to the American system of jurisprudence
5. Understand the evolution of the contemporary prison system
6. Understand what the policy of incarceration is
7. Know what is meant by “Evidence Based Corrections.”
8. Understand why the prison system is called the “new asylum.”

Course Requirements:

The final grade will be based on three midterm exams and two in class presentations. Each exam will constitute 25% of the final grade and the presentations will each be worth 12.5% of the final grade. Each student will be required to make a class presentation based on an article retrievable on e-reserve and a chapter from the Michele Alexander text (see below). Presentations should provide a thoughtful overview of the article or chapter. Critical evaluation of the article is encouraged as well as the identification of questions and issues that generate class discussion.

Tentative List of Articles for Sociology 3564
Fall Semester 2013

Time to Prison Return for Offenders wit Serious Mental Illness Release From Prison: A Survival Analysis; *Criminal Justice and Behavior* (K.Cloyes) 2010; 37; 175

Applying Evidence-Based Practices to Community Corrections Supervision: An Evaluation of Residential substance Abuse Treatment for High-Risk Probationers (D. Perez) *Journal of Contemporary Justice* 2009; 25; 442

The Giant That Never Woke: Parole Authorities as the Lynchpin to Evidence-Based Practices and Prisoner Reentry (M.paparozzi) *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 2009; 25; 397

Chaos Theory and Correctional Treatment: Common Sense, Correctional Quackery, and the Law of Fartcatchers (P. Gendreau) *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 2009; 25; 384

What Works? Questions and Answers About Prison Reform; (R. Martinson); *The Public Interest* 35:22-54

Unlocking America: Why and How to Reduce America's Prison Population (JFA Institute)

<http://cdpsweb.state.co.us/cccj/PDF/Research%20Documents/UnlockingAmerica.pdf>

The Past and Future of U.S. Prison Policy: Twenty-Five Years After the Stanford Prison Experiment (C. Haney) *American Psychologist*, 53(7): 709-727

Welcome Home? Examining the 'Reentry Court' Concept from a Strengths-based Perspective (S. Maruna) *Western Criminological Review*. 4(2): 91-107

Corrections and Sentencing in the 21st Century: Evidence-based Corrections and Sentencing. (D. MacKenzie) *The Prison Journal* (81:3) pp.299-312

Grading

The final grade will be based on three in class exams, and two class presentations.

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
Presentation 1	12.5 %
Presentation 2	12.5 %

Grading Scale: A (100-93) A- (92-90) B+ (89-87) B (86-83) B- (82-80) C+ (79-77) C (76-73) C- (72-70) D+ (69-67) D (66-63) D- (62-60) E (<60)

Lecture Topics

A History of the Courts

Marbury v. Madison

Elements of Criminal Liability

Defenses to Criminal Liability

Constitutional Amendments that Apply to the Criminal justice Process

Pew Report on Prisons – The Policy of Mass Incarceration

The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison

The Innocence Project: Wrongful Convictions

Evidence Based Corrections

Expectation of Academic Honesty

Unfortunately, academic dishonesty has become a serious problem on many campuses. The purpose for including the following statement is to prevent any misunderstanding about what constitutes academic dishonesty and what consequences will result if it is detected.

Academic honesty is expected. An act of academic dishonesty will result in a failing course grade of "E" and may result in a recommendation of additional disciplinary action. (The University of Utah Student Code provides for these sanctions and provides appeal rights.)

1. Cheating (as defined in Article XI of the Student Code) generally includes the giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance on any academic work.
2. Plagiarism, as defined in Article XI of the Student Code, is "the appropriation of any other person's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit."
3. Falsification. Any untrue statement, either oral or written, concerning one's own academic work or the academic work of another student, or the unauthorized alteration of any academic record.
4. Original work. Unless specifically authorized by the instructor, all academic work undertaken in this course must be original, that is, it must not have been submitted in a prior course nor may it be submitted in a course being taken concurrently.

Special Accommodations

In accordance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of the course are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible. Written documentation of the disability should be submitted during the first week of the quarter along with the request for special accommodations. Contact the Center for Disabled Student Services (160 Union, 1-5020) to facilitate requests.

Updated: April 5, 2013

