

# **Syllabus for Sociology 3564-10 Locked Up ! Criminal Courts and Corrections Fall Semester 2012**

Instructor: Larry L. Bench Ph.D.  
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Location: BEH, Room 114  
Day and Time: Thursday 6:00 – 8:45 pm  
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Text: Corrections: An Introduction, 3/E, (Richard Seiter). Published by Prentice Hall ISBN-13 978-0-13-506082-7

## **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 an in class presentation. Each exam will constitute 25% of the final grade and the presentation will be worth 15%. Ten percent of the final grade will be based on class participation. Each student will be required to make a class presentation based on an article retrievable on e-reserve. Presentations should provide a thoughtful overview of the article and be limited to approximately 15 minutes. Critical evaluation of the article is encouraged as well as the identification of questions and issues that generate class discussion. **Each student is required to submit an outline of their presentation along with four multiple choice questions (typed) with the correct answer identified. Please be prepared to present your questions to the class on an overhead or PowerPoint presentation. Questions are not to be handed out to the class.**

**Reading assignments will be given at the beginning of the semester.**

### **Grading**

The final grade will be based on three in class exams, a class presentation, and class participation.

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
Presentation	15%
Class Participation	10%

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)

### **Exam Schedule**

Exam 1 (Thursday) Sept. 20  
Exam 2 (Thursday) October 25  
Exam 3 (Thursday) December 6

### **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.