Introduction to Corrections

CRJ 106:1001

Meeting Times: ***
Location: ***
Professor: Jennifer L. Lanterman, Ph.D.
Ansari Business Building, Room 607
E-mail: jlanterman@unr.edu
Office Hours: ***

Course Description:
This course will examine the history and evolution of adult institutional and community-based corrections, prison life for inmates and correctional staff, the impact of incarceration on families, special populations, offender re-entry, and the future of corrections in the United States. Global context addressing other countries and global influences for many of these topics will also be reviewed.

CRJ 106 will satisfy Core Objective 11-- Global Contexts: Students will apply and evaluate modes of academic inquiry, creative expression, or results of research to problems in historical and contemporary global contexts. Students will articulate connections among local, national, and international contexts and evaluate the ways historical and contemporary global influences affect their current situations.

Students Learning Outcomes: (There are four common SLOs for this course)

1. Students will be able to demonstrate a general understanding of correctional systems in the United States.
2. Students will be able to identify historical and contemporary themes, trends, and issues in correctional systems in the United States.
3. Students will be able to articulate the global contexts of correctional history and reform (CO 11).
4. Students will be able to identify similarities and differences in how the United States and other countries approach institutional and community-based corrections (CO 11).

Materials:


Additional readings as assigned by the instructor.

It is your responsibility to complete all readings prior to class meetings.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is not required and you do not receive credit for attending class. However, I expect you to be on time if you plan on attending class. Regular attendance is encouraged as much of what is discussed in class is not in the textbook and will appear on examinations.

If you plan to attend lecture, then it is expected that you are present and focused only on class lecture and discussion. Please do not engage in unnecessary conversation, reading of materials other than those
associated with class, texting, or Internet surfing. If you are observed engaging in any of the aforementioned activities, then you may be asked to leave class.

Please turn off all cell phones prior to the beginning of class.

Student Evaluations:

The final course grade will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group presentation country selections</td>
<td>2.4.15</td>
<td>N/A (Included in presentation grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term examination # 1</td>
<td>2.18.15</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term examination # 2</td>
<td>3.23.15</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie assignment</td>
<td>4.22.15</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy of group presentation</td>
<td>4.15.15</td>
<td>N/A (Included in presentation grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group presentations</td>
<td>4.15.15, 4.22.15</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.27.15, 4.29.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>5.11.15</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All examinations will begin promptly at the start of the class period. Examinations will not be provided to students who arrive after the first student completes and submits his or her examination. A grade of zero (F) will be assigned for examinations missed due to late arrival to the examination period.

If you have a scheduling conflict with an assignment due date or examination date, then you must speak with the instructor prior to the date in question to make arrangements. If you do not make arrangements with the instructor, then a grade of zero (F) will be assigned for the assignment or examination. If an emergency occurs (e.g., car accident, hospitalization, death in the family, arrest), then official documentation is required in order to arrange assignment extensions. No make-up examinations will be administered. If an examination is missed with an excused absence, then the examination grade will be replaced by an average of the other grades. If an examination is missed with an unexcused absence, then the student will be assigned a grade of zero (F) on the examination.

Grading:

The following grading scheme will be used for this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.1% - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0% - 92.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88.0% - 89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.1% - 87.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0% - 82.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78.0% - 79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.1% - 77.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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SAMPLE using the Spring 2015 schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70.0% - 72.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68.0% - 69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62.1% - 67.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60.0% - 62.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9% and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The professor reserves the right to give pop quizzes at random throughout the session for extra credit. If you miss an extra credit quiz because you were absent, late, or left early (for any reason), you cannot take a make-up pop quiz.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students found to be engaging in dishonest behavior will receive a grade of zero (F) on the assignment or examination in question, and the violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes the following: cheating on quizzes and examinations, arranging for another person to take an examination, the fabrication of information used in an assignment, plagiarism, facilitating the academic dishonesty of other students, and denying other students access to information and/or materials. For more details on academic dishonesty and possible consequences, please see the University General Course Catalog at: [http://www.cis.unr.edu/ecatalog/default.aspx?article_list_id=25995](http://www.cis.unr.edu/ecatalog/default.aspx?article_list_id=25995)

**Students with Disabilities:**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any student with a disability that requires special accommodation must make contact with the Disability Resource Center (Thomson Building, Suite 100) as soon as reasonably possible. A representative of the Disability Resource Center will determine appropriate accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to provide official documentation of appropriate accommodations to the instructor well in advance of the assignment or examination requiring modification. Accommodations and considerations will not be made retroactively.

**Policy on Audio and Video Recording:**

Board of Regents policy prohibits unauthorized recording of classes at the University of Nevada, Reno. According to the Board of Regents policy, this class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.

**Academic Success:**

Academic success begins with the student. In order to be successful, students must read prior to class, attend and participate in lecture, and study throughout the semester. The Tutoring Center ([www.unr.edu/tutoring-center](http://www.unr.edu/tutoring-center)) and the University Writing Center ([www.unr.edu/writing_center](http://www.unr.edu/writing_center)) are available to support your learning activities. It is your responsibility to access these services. Please keep
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in mind that seeking help outside of class from these resources or by attending office hours is a sign of a responsible student.

**Course Outline***:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 21 (W):</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group Presentation Group Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 26 (M):</td>
<td>Philosophy of Sentencing &amp; Corrections</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 28 (W):</td>
<td>History of Corrections</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CO 11 will be addressed in this session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coverage: Ancient Greece and Rome, Australia, England, and the United States</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2 (M):</td>
<td>Correctional Reform</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CO 11 will be addressed in this session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coverage: Australia, Ireland, and the United States</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4 (W):</td>
<td>Sentencing</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em><strong>Group presentation country selections due</strong></em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9 (M):</td>
<td>Sentencing II (Death Penalty)</td>
<td>Chapter 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CO 11 will be addressed in this session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coverage: Summary of international positions on death penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11 (W):</td>
<td>Jails</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16 (M):</td>
<td>NO CLASS (President’s Day)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18 (W):</td>
<td><em><strong>Mid-term Examination # 1</strong></em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23 (M):</td>
<td>Prisons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
February 25 (W):  Prisons II

CO 11 will be addressed in this session
Coverage: International summary of prison system organization, views on incarceration, and incarceration rates

March 2 (M):  Programming & Treatment during Confinement

Chapter 15
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March 4 (W): Programming & Treatment during Confinement II
CO 11 will be addressed in this session
Coverage: Japan and Sweden

March 9 (M): Parole & Offender Reentry
Chapter 10

March 11 (W): Parole & Offender Reentry II
CO 11 will be addressed in this session
Coverage: Australia, China, Ireland, Netherlands, and Spain

March 16 (M): NO CLASS (Spring Break)
March 18 (W): NO CLASS (Spring Break)

March 23 (M): ***Mid-term Examination # 2***

March 25 (W): Alternatives to Incarceration
Chapter 7

March 30 (M): Alternatives to Incarceration II
CO 11 will be addressed in this session
Coverage: England, Pakistan, Scotland, South Africa, and Wales

April 1 (W): Correctional Staff
Chapter 9

April 6 (M): Women & Corrections
Chapter 11

April 8 (W): Racial & Ethnic Minorities in Corrections
Chapter 12

April 13 (M): Legal Issues in Corrections
Chapter 14

***Movie assignment will become available on WebCampus***

April 15 (W): Group Presentations & Discussion
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***Copies of all group presentations due***
CO 11 will be addressed in this session
Coverage: United States and 3-4 European countries

April 20 (M): NO CLASS
Work on out-of-class movie assignment

April 22 (W): Group Presentations & Discussion
***Movie assignment due***
CO 11 will be addressed in this session
Coverage: United States and 3-4 Central and South American countries

April 27 (M): Group Presentations & Discussion
CO 11 will be addressed in this session
Coverage: United States and 3-4 African countries

April 29 (W): Group Presentations & Discussion
CO 11 will be addressed in this session
Countries: United States and 3-4 Asian countries

May 4 (M): Corrections in the 21st Century
Chapter 17

May 11 (M): ***Final Examination***
10:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.

*This syllabus is subject to change.

Assessment Plan

The Department of Criminal Justice proposes that CRJ 106: Introduction to Corrections will fulfill the Department’s requirement to satisfy Core Objective 11—Global Contexts. All criminal justice majors will be required to take CRJ 106 (starting in the fall 2015 semester). Assessment of the SLOs will be based on the core assessment guidelines. Assessment of students’ knowledge and skills will be achieved primarily through standard examination questions and a group project.

Standard Examination Questions

Examinations will include standard multiple choice and/or fill-in-the-blank questions that will require students to demonstrate knowledge of historic and contemporary global contexts in corrections. All examination questions, including those assessing CO 11, are reviewed via item analysis.
Students are required to work in groups to develop a PowerPoint presentation (to be submitted for review) comparing probation systems in the United States and each group’s assigned country, deliver the presentation, and answer questions from members of the class. A full description of the assignment is included below.

Level of exposure: In the spring 2015 semester (class is full at 70 students), there will be 14 groups. This means that students will learn about the probation systems in the United States and 14 other countries.

Evaluation: Group presentations are assessed via a standard rubric.

**Group Presentation Assignment**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this assignment is for students to examine probation systems outside of the United States and analyze the systems in relation to probation in the United States. Students will also practice collaborative work and presentation skills. Students will work together in small groups to complete the research, prepare, and deliver a 7-10 minute PowerPoint presentation to the class and answer questions from the class regarding their presentations.

**Steps**

1. Students will be assigned to small groups on **Wednesday, January 21, 2015**. Students will then have some time to meet, exchange contact information, and discuss schedules for any work that needs to be done outside of class. Please be aware that group membership may change a bit, as it is common for students to add and drop classes early in the semester. If you plan to drop the class, then please let me know so that I make any necessary changes to groups.

2. Each group must select a country outside of the United States that uses a form of probation supervision. Please keep in mind that the system may go by another name. If you have questions, then please ask me. The group must submit a typed document with the group number, group members’ names, and three countries that the group members wish to study. Groups are required to submit three choices in the event that several groups select the same country. This document must contain complete sentences. This assignment is due on **Wednesday, February 4, 2015**. This assignment does not carry points toward the final course grade. However, failure to submit this assignment will result in a significant point reduction on the group presentation grade.

Group members will be informed of their assigned countries no later than **Wednesday, February 11, 2015**.

3. Each group may begin research once the country assignments have been finalized. Information to be reviewed in the presentation includes:

   - A description of the probation process in each group’s assigned country
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-In what ways is the probation process similar and in what ways is it different than probation in the United States

-One aspect of the assigned country’s probation system that could be integrated into the American probation system and/or one aspect of the country’s system that would not work in the United States and explain why.

4. Each group must submit a copy of the presentation, including all group members’ names, at the start of class on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

5. Groups will be randomly selected to present on April 15, April 22, April 27, and April 29, 2015. Groups must deliver the same presentation they submit on April 15, 2015. This ensures that all students have the same amount of time to work on the assignment. Failure to present the same material submitted on April 15, 2015 will result in a significant point reduction on the group presentation grade. Students are encouraged to attend all four sessions, because material from these presentations may appear on the final examination.

Assessment

Students should approach this assignment like a professional presentation.

Groups will be graded on the quality of the PowerPoint slides, the content of the presentation, the quality of delivery, staying within the designated presentation time range (e.g., 7-10 minutes), and how well groups answer class questions. Grading will be conducted via a standard rubric.

Groups are encouraged to meet to develop and practice their presentations throughout the semester.

Project Management

The directions are intentionally vague with respect to project management methods. This assignment requires each student to work within a group to negotiate which work and project management methods work best for this particular group. This is a skill that all students will need in the work place.