CCJ 4939: SENIOR CAPSTONE SEMINAR: CORRECTIONS
SYLLABUS
Spring 2015

Professor
Dr. Jessica Grosholz
Email: jgrosholz@sar.usf.edu
Office: SMC248

Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Class Meeting Time: Wed. 6:00pm-8:45pm
Class Location: SMC A217

Prerequisites
CCJ 3024: Survey of the Criminal Justice System
CCJ 3701: Research Methods in Criminal Justice I
CCJ 3117 Theories of Criminal Behavior

Course Description

This capstone course provides an in-depth study of punishment and corrections in contemporary American society. In particular, this course will allow students to critically examine prisons, probation and parole, reentry, and correctional policies. More recent correctional practices and reforms will be explored as we begin to understand how American corrections has become a “culture of control” (Garland 2001). This course is organized into three core areas:

I. History and Theory of Corrections and Punishment: What is punishment? What is corrections? How has American corrections changed over time? What are the current trends in American corrections? Which criminological theories can be used to explain punishment and corrections?

II. Prison Experience: How is the modern prison organized and structured? What is the prison experience like for inmates? How does the prison experience differ based on gender, race, class, and age? What role does treatment and rehabilitation play in prison today?

III. Community Corrections & Post-Prison Experiences: What is the role of probation and parole? What challenges do formerly incarcerated persons experience upon release? How do these challenges influence reoffending behaviors? How does the prison experience affect reoffending and the larger community?
Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Understand the organization and structure of the modern prison system
2. Identify the race, gender, class, and age inequalities facing corrections today
3. Recognize the many alternatives to incarceration as well as the far-reaching effects of incarceration
4. Use concepts and theories from the criminological literature to frame arguments about corrections and punishment
5. Write a research proposal that demonstrates not only their writing ability and research methods knowledge, but also their ability to critically assess and analyze various criminological readings

Required Books


All other readings will be found on the course Canvas site.

Course Requirements

Exam #1: 15%
Exam #2: 15%
Canvas Questions: 10%
Film Reflection Paper: 10%
Research Proposal: 30%
Final Presentation: 20%

Grading System

97 and above = A+
96-93 = A
92-90 = A-
89-87 = B+
86-83 = B
82-80 = B-
79-77 = C+
76-73 = C
72-70 = C-
69-67 = D+
66-63 = D
62-60 = D-
59 and below = F
Assignments

Exams: You will have two exams in this class: the first on 2/11 and the second on 4/8. Each exam will have a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. All course material will be covered on the exams. This includes readings, lecture materials, in-class discussions, and films/documentaries. I will provide additional details on the exams to help you prepare as the dates approach.

Canvas Questions: Class discussion is an integral part of this course. As a result, you must post three questions about the assigned readings/topic on the Canvas Discussion Board by 3pm the day of class. These questions will help stimulate class discussion throughout the semester. Questions that are submitted after 3pm will not be accepted. Each week’s questions are worth 9 points (3 points per question). As a result, you will lose 3 points for each question you do not submit by 3pm on the day of class.

Film Reflection Paper: Throughout the semester we will watch 5 films and/or documentaries related to various aspects of the corrections industry. You must write a 4-5 page reflection paper on one of these films. In this reflection paper, you will discuss your own thoughts on the film you have chosen to reflect upon. In this short paper, you must also relate the film to the course material. Do not summarize the film. Instead, your reflection paper should provide a thoughtful and considered evaluation and/or critique of issues raised in the film. You may turn your reflection paper in at any point throughout the semester, but it must be submitted no later than 11:59pm on April 8th.

Research Proposal: This assignment involves writing a 15-page (excluding references), typed, 12-point, Times New Roman, double-spaced research proposal on the topic of your choice. Your topic must be related to the course material and must be approved by me no later than the end of class on January 14th. Your final paper must be turned in electronically via Canvas by April 29th, no later than 8pm. Late penalties apply – for every 24 hours that your paper is late, you will lose 10 points.

Everything should be your own words – you should have no more than 3 direct quotes. All papers will be run through a plagiarism software program—so please cite your materials. An APA citation guide will be provided via Canvas.

You will be required to submit two sections of your final research proposal during the semester – the literature review (2/4) and the methods section (2/18). These early submissions are meant to get you thinking and writing early. They will also allow me to give you feedback as you work through your ideas. You are also required to bring a full draft of your research proposal to class on 3/25 as we will have a research proposal workshop for at least half of the class time. Note, that I will not grade these submissions beyond just making sure you complete them. However, if you do not submit the literature review and methods section on the day they are due, you will lose 5 points on the final research proposal grade for each section that
was not submitted during the semester. If you do not bring a full draft of your research proposal to class on 3/25, you will lose 10 points on the final research proposal grade.

Please note: You will also be required to visit the writing center (either in person or via email) for feedback on your research proposal. Documentation that you have visited the writing center is due by **11:59pm on 4/22**.

**Final Presentation**: You are also required to present your research proposal in class. Final presentations will take place over the last 2 class sessions (4/15 and 4/22). The presentations should be between 7 and 10 minutes and should lead the audience through your research proposal. Each presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. More details will be given in class.

**Extra Credit**: There will be one opportunity for extra credit in this course. More details will be provided in class and via Canvas.

**Course Policies**

**Attendance**: While attendance is not mandatory, it is instrumental to your mastery of the course material. Failure to attend class regularly will inhibit your ability to do well in this course.

**Make-Up Exam Policy**: Makeup assignments will only be allowed in a situation of an excused absence. Excused absences include illness (self or dependent) and bereavement. Having another exam on the same day does not constitute a valid excuse. If you are going to miss an exam, please make every effort to notify me before the missed exam. You must provide me with a written excuse along with appropriate documentation to support the absence. If you are unable to notify me before the exam, please contact me via e-mail ASAP to inform me of your absence. In the event that you miss an exam due to an excused absence, a make-up exam will be given. No other make-up exams will be given.

**Canvas Use and Support**: I will be using Canvas to post readings, grades, and important announcements. This will also be where you will post your weekly discussion questions. I will also use Canvas to email students in this course. Please make sure you check your Canvas and USF email daily for important announcements.

Information on how to use Canvas is available at [http://usfsm.edu/e-learning-services/student-resources/](http://usfsm.edu/e-learning-services/student-resources/). You could also contact the Information Commons Academic Resource Desk at 941-359-4225 or usfsm.edu/infocommons for assistance with Canvas problems.

The USF Tampa IT Help desk also provides 24 hour support for Canvas. Please call 813-974-1222 or email: help@usf.edu if you need assistance outside of USFSM’s E-Learning hours.
**Plagiarism Software:** The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. Your final paper will be submitted to Turnitin via Canvas. Your paper will be automatically compared with a database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. I will receive a report showing exactly how a student’s paper was plagiarized.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students are requested to maintain confidentiality as a way to keep their personal contact information (i.e., name, address, telephone) from being disclosed to vendors or other outside agencies. By your submission, you are also agreeing to release your original work for academic purposes to Turnitin.

**Laptop Use:** Students are welcome to bring their laptops to class EXCEPT on exams days. If you are using a laptop to take notes, I expect that you will not be on the Internet, responding to emails, on Facebook or otherwise off task.

**General Conduct:** Please be mindful to the general code of conduct that you would use in any classroom setting. I expect us all to be respectful of one another. Please try not to arrive late to class, and once in class, please refrain from carrying on private conversations with your neighbor(s). This is distracting for everyone else in the room. If you need to leave class early, please notify me of this before the class begins and sit in the seat closest to the door.

**USF SM and USF System Policies**

**Academic Dishonesty:** The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university’s policy in the catalog, USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.

Undergraduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
Graduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
USF Student Code of Conduct: http://www.sa.usf.edu/srr/page.asp?id=88

**Academic Disruption:** The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the USFSM Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct. See above for the websites.

**Contingency Plans:** In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor Canvas for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites,
emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency.

**Disabilities Accommodation:** Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Disability Coordinator: 359-4714; email: disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu and website: http://usfsm.edu/disability-services/

**Fire Alarm Instructions:** At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated. See information available on the USFSM student and faculty webpages at www.usfsm.edu

**Religious Observances:** The University recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes. http://generalcounsel.usf.edu/policies-and-procedures/pdfs/policy-10-045.pdf

**Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment Reporting:** USFSM is committed to providing an environment free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence (USF System Policy 0-004). The Counseling and Wellness Center is a confidential resource where you can talk about incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. This confidential resource can help you without having to report your situation to either the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSSR) or the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity (DIEO), unless you request that they make a report.

Please be aware that in compliance with Title IX and under the USF System Policy, educators must report incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. If you disclose any of these situations in class, in papers, or to me personally, I am required to report it to OSSR or DIEO for investigation. The Deputy Coordinator for USFSM is Mary Beth Wallace, AVP for Student Enrollment, Engagement and Success, 941-359-4330 or marybeth@sar.usf.edu.

Campus Resources:
- Counseling Center and Wellness Center 941-487-4254
- Victim Advocate (24/7) 941-504-8599

List of off-campus resources:
- Hope of Manatee: 941-755-6805
Safe Place & Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) – Sarasota: 941-365-1976
First Call for Help- Manatee: 941-708-6488
Sarasota & North Port 941-366-5025
Manatee Glens: 941-782-4800

**Emergency Preparedness:** It is strongly recommended that you become familiar with the USF Sarasota-Manatee Emergency Action Plan on the Safety Preparedness. See information available on the USFSM student and faculty webpages at www.usfsm.edu

**Web Portal Information:** Every newly enrolled USF student receives an official USF e-mail account. Students receive official USF correspondence and Canvas course information via that address. Therefore it is the student's responsibility to check their USF email regularly.

**Instructional Copyright:** Students may not sell notes or other course materials.

## Course Schedule

**Topics, Readings, Assignments and Dates:**

*Clear:* American Corrections
*Santos:* Inside: Life Behind Bars in America
*C:* Canvas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1/7  | Introduction to Corrections, Film: Against the Wall, & What is a Research Proposal? | **Readings**
Clear: Chapter 1 (pp. 15-27)
Clear: Chapter 2 (pp. 31-35)
*C:* Cullen & Jonson (pp. 23-36) |
| 2    | 1/14 | History of Corrections and Punishment in the United States | **Assignments**
3 Canvas Questions
Research Question approved by end of class |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3    | 1/21 | Theory of Crime, Corrections and Punishment in the United States & What is a Literature Review? | Clear: Chapter 2 (pp. 35-38)  
C: Agnew (pp. 104-144) | 3 Canvas Questions |
| 4    | 1/28 | Organization & Structure of the Prison System & Literature Review Workshop | Clear: Chapter 6 (pp. 142-167)  
C: Makarios and Maahs (pp. 336-357) | 3 Canvas Questions |
| 5    | 2/4  | Prison Life, Culture and Violence, Film: Prison Gangs, & What are Research Methods? | Clear: Chapter 7 (pp. 168-176)  
Clear: Chapter 8 (pp. 215-223)  
C: Mears et al. (pp. 695-728)  
C: Steiner et al. (pp. 462-470)  
C: Bales and Miller (pp. 394-403) | 3 Canvas Questions  
Draft of Literature Review submitted via Canvas by 11:59pm on 2/4 |
| 6    | 2/11 | EXAM #1, Treatment and Rehabilitation in Prison, & Research Methods Workshop | Clear: Chapter 7 (pp. 182-188)  
C: NPR Audio (30 minutes)  
C: Kim and Clark (pp. 196-204)  
C: Collica-Cox (pp. 931-952) | 3 Canvas Questions |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>Race, Gender, and Class Inequality in Prison &amp; Film: Female Offenders</td>
<td>Clear: Chapter 7 (pp. 176-182)</td>
<td>3 Canvas Questions&lt;br&gt;Draft of Methods Section submitted via Canvas by 11:59pm on 2/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/25</td>
<td>Juveniles and the Elderly in Prison &amp; Film: Juvenile Prisons</td>
<td>Clear: Chapter 9 (pp. 224-228) Clear: Chapter 12 (pp. 306-333) C: van der Laan and Eichelsheim (pp. 424-443) C: Chiu (pp. 1-16)</td>
<td>3 Canvas Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>Clear: Chapter 7 (pp. 176-182)</td>
<td>3 Canvas Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>Class Discussion: Inside: Life Behind Bars in America</td>
<td>Santos: Finish by now</td>
<td>3 Canvas Questions – All on Santos book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TENTATIVE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Clear: Chapter 7 (pp. 176-182)</td>
<td>3 Canvas Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>CLASS TO BE HELD AT ROBERT L. TAYLOR CENTER – COMMUNITY FORUM – more info to follow</td>
<td>Clear: Chapter 7 (pp. 176-182)</td>
<td>3 Canvas Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>Last Day to Drop With a “W;” No Refund, No Academic Penalty</td>
<td>Clear: Chapter 7 (pp. 176-182)</td>
<td>3 Canvas Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>Alternatives to Incarceration &amp; Research Proposal Workshop</td>
<td>Clear: Chapter 4 (pp. 88-113) Clear: Chapter 5 (pp. 114-140) C: Johnson &amp; DiPietro (pp. 811-850) C: Mitchell et al. (pp. 60-71) C: DeMatteo et al. (pp. 64-71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>Returning Home &amp; <strong>Film:</strong> Back on the Streets</td>
<td>Clear: Chapter 10 (pp 246-275) C: Visher and Travis (pp. 89-113) BB: Petersilia (pp. 139-170) C: NPR Audio (5 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/8</td>
<td><strong>EXAM #2,</strong> &amp; The Future of Corrections</td>
<td>Clear: Chapter 13 (pp. 334-355) C: Lutze et al. (pp. 42-59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>Final Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>4/22</td>
<td>Final Presentations</td>
<td>Writing Center documentation due by 11:59pm on 4/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>Final Papers Due by 8pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>