CCJ 4939: SENIOR CAPSTONE SEMINAR: CORRECTIONS
SYLLABUS
Fall 2014

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

Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Class Meeting Time: Thurs. 6:00pm-8:50pm
Class Location: SMC B235

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 focuses on punishment and corrections in contemporary American society. As such, it is provides an in-depth study of the corrections system. In particular, this course will allow students to critically examine the 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: 20%
Canvas Questions: 15%
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 9/25 and the second on 10/30. 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 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.

**Research Proposal:** This assignment involves writing a 15-page (excluding references), typed, 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 6pm on Friday, September 12th. Your final paper must be turned in electronically via Canvas by December 11th, no later than 8pm. Late penalties apply – for every 24 hours that your paper is late, you will lose 10 points.

You will be required to submit two sections of your final research proposal during the semester – the literature review (9/18) and the methods section (10/2). 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 10/23 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 10/23, 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 via Canvas on 11/20 by 6pm.

**Final Presentation:** You are also required to present your research proposal in class. Final presentations will take place over the last 3 class sessions (11/6, 11/13, and 12/4). 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:** Extra credit will not be given in this course.
Course Policies

**Attendance:** While attendance is not mandatory, it is instrumental to your mastery of the course material. Because there are only 13 total classes, students who have more than 2 unexcused absences will lose one letter grade from their final grade.

**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.

Canvas support is available through USFSM E-Learning staff from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday. Please call or email Carlos Montoya at 941-359-4295 or cmmontoya@sar.usf.edu

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.

More information on how to use Canvas is available at http://www.usfsm.edu/e-learning-services/student-resources/

**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.

Additional information about Turnitin scores will be incorporated in the research paper guidelines and rubric which will be provided separately.
**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.

**USFSM 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/](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/)
Graduate: [http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/)

**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/](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

**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

*Sykes:* Society of Captives

*C:* Canvas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 8/28  | Introduction to Corrections & Film: Against the Wall | **Readings**
|      |       |                                            | Clear: Chapter 1 (pp. 15-27) |
|      |       |                                            | Clear: Chapter 2 (pp. 31-35) |
|      |       |                                            | C: Cullen & Jonson (pp. 23-36) |
| 2    | 9/4   | History of Corrections and Punishment in the United States & What is a Research Proposal? | **Assignments**
<p>|      |       |                                            | 3 Canvas Questions |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Theory of Crime, Corrections and Punishment in the United States</td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clear: Chapter 2 (pp. 35-38)&lt;br&gt;C: Agnew (pp. 104-144)</td>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong>&lt;br&gt;3 Canvas Questions&lt;br&gt;Research Question approved by 6pm on 9/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Organization &amp; Structure of the Prison System &amp; Literature Reviews</td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clear: Chapter 6 (pp. 142-167)&lt;br&gt;Sykes: Chapters 1-3 (pp. 3-62)</td>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong>&lt;br&gt;3 Canvas Questions&lt;br&gt;Draft of Literature Review submitted via Canvas by 6pm on 9/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td><strong>EXAM #1, Prison Life, Culture and Violence,</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Film: Prison Gangs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>&lt;br&gt;C: NPR Audio (30 minutes)&lt;br&gt;Clear: Chapter 7 (pp. 168-176)&lt;br&gt;Clear: Chapter 8 (pp. 215-223)&lt;br&gt;Sykes: Chapters 4-6 (pp. 63-129)</td>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong>&lt;br&gt;3 Canvas Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Treatment and Rehabilitation in Prison &amp; Research Methods</td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clear: Chapter 7 (pp. 182-188)&lt;br&gt;C: NPR Audio (30 minutes)&lt;br&gt;C: Cullen (pp. 1-42)</td>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong>&lt;br&gt;3 Canvas Questions&lt;br&gt;Draft of Methods Section submitted via Canvas by 6pm on 10/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Race, Gender, and Class Inequality in Prison &amp; Film: Female Offenders</td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clear: Chapter 7 (pp. 176-182)  &lt;br&gt;C: Western &amp; Pettit (pp. 37-43)  &lt;br&gt;C: Reiman (pp. 111-156)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Juveniles and the Elderly in Prison &amp; Film: Juvenile Prisons</td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clear: Chapter 9 (pp. 224-228)  &lt;br&gt;C: National Juvenile Justice Network (pp. 1-18)  &lt;br&gt;C: Chiu (pp. 1-16)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>Alternatives to Incarceration &amp; Research Proposal Workshop</td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clear: Chapter 4 (pp. 88-113)  &lt;br&gt;Clear: Chapter 5 (pp. 114-140)  &lt;br&gt;C: Johnson &amp; DiPietro (pp. 811-850)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>EXAM #2, Returning Home, &amp; Film: Back on the Streets</td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clear: Chapter 10 (pp 246-275)  &lt;br&gt;C: Visher and Travis (pp. 89-113)  &lt;br&gt;BB: Petersilia (pp. 139-170)  &lt;br&gt;C: NPR Audio (5 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong></td>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong>&lt;br&gt;3 Canvas Questions  &lt;br&gt;3 Canvas Questions  &lt;br&gt;Full Draft of Research Proposal Must be Brought to Class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>Last Day to Drop With a “W;” No Refund, No Academic Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 11/6  | The Future of Corrections & Final Presentations | Readings  
Clear: Chapter 13 (pp. 334-355)  
C: Lutze et al. (pp. 42-59)  
Assignments  
3 Canvas Questions |
| 11/13 | Final Presentations           |                                            |
| 11/20 | NO CLASS – AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY MEETINGS | Writing Center documentation due via Canvas by 6pm on 11/20 |
| 11/27 | NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING       |                                            |
| 12/4  | Final Presentations           |                                            |
| 12/11 |                               | Final Papers Due by 8pm                   |