

SOCIOLOGY 270
CORRECTIONS IN AMERICA
SPRING 2006

Instructor	Vince P. Ramunni
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TEXT: Mays, G. Larry and L. Thomas Winfree, Jr. Essentials of Corrections, Third Edition. California: Thomson/Wadsworth Learning, 2005.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will explore the historical development of Corrections in America. It will compare the institutionalization of criminals versus community-based approaches. Through readings, lectures, and group discussions, students will explore the dynamics of prison life, as well as the organizational aspects of the adult probation and parole systems. When appropriate, videos will also be used to help illustrate prison life in the United States and abroad.

GOALS:

- To gain an understanding of the history of corrections in America
- To review and discuss major sociological theories that deal specifically with corrections and punishment
- To identify the various approaches to supervision, treatment, and rehabilitation of the American adult offender
- To gain empathy for those different than ourselves

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Scoring- The class will be based on a total of 400 points, with this breakdown:

-One test/midterm (100 points)=	100 points
-Two quizzes (50 points each)=	100 points
-Two papers/reviews (50 points each)=	100 points
-Final Exam (100 points)=	<u>100 points</u>
	400 points total

Tests and quizzes will be based on information gathered from required reading, lecture notes, and class videos. Topics for papers and reviews will be assigned at later dates.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular attendance is fully expected. It is understood that there are circumstances that would prevent a student from attending class (illness, family emergency). The student, in such a case, is expected to notify the instructor as soon as possible of the situation. Students should also check with the instructor regarding missed work or assignments.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students should acquaint themselves with the college's policy on Academic Honesty in the current Student Handbook, specifically both sections entitled "Plagiarism" and "Cheating." Any student found to have not upheld the college's policy shall be dismissed from the course, and assigned a grade of F. Students are urged to see the instructor if they have any questions regarding this matter.

COURSE OUTLINE AND LECTURE TOPICS:

The instructor, with cooperation from the class, will make every effort to cover the following list of topics. This list, however, is subject to modification to best fit the needs of the class. Reading assignments will be given on a weekly basis.

LIST OF TOPICS:

- The Evolution of Punishment and Prisons
- Classifying Adult Offenders
- The Crimes Code and Sentencing Guidelines
- Jails and Detention Facilities
- Inmate Life
- Female Offenders and Gender Issues
- Race and Ethnicity
- The Contemporary Prison
- Prison Administration
- Rights of Prisoners
- The Death Penalty
- Prison Programs and Services
- The New Prisoners- Excluded Juvenile Offenders
- Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections

LIST OF VIDEOS AND DVDs:

In accordance with college policy, the following is a list of videos and/or DVDs that may be viewed during class this semester:

- "Crime and Punishment" (Nightline 2001)
- "Kids Behind Bars" (A&E Television Network 2001)
- "Women in Prison" (A&E Television Network 2005)
- "Prisons" (A&E Television Network 2005)

*Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

