

SOCIOLOGY 270 - CORRECTIONS IN AMERICA

Fall Term 2008

August 25, 2008 - December 23, 2008

Course Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Hon. Emil Giordano
Office Hours: By Appointment
Work Phone: 610-559-6945
Home Phone: 610-866-0502
Email: egiord7630@rcn.com

TEXT: Corrections in America: An Introduction, *Eleventh Edition*.
By: Harry E. Allen, Edward J. Latessa, Bruce S. Ponder, Clifford E. Simonsen, Authors. Prentice Hall, Publisher. (February 7, 2006)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will review: the historical development of corrections in America; the competing philosophies of corrections as institutional and community-based programs; the dynamics of prison life and inmate subculture; the administrative, organizational and rehabilitative aspects of adult and juvenile probation and parole; and special emphasis on the role of the courts in sentencing.

GOALS OF THIS COURSE:

- To provide students with an accurate, detailed and up-to-date account of the development of correctional practices.
- To show how historical events and social issues have helped to shape today's correctional systems.
- To describe objectively and in detail contemporary corrections in the United States in terms of its present structure, clients, management and personnel and programs.
- To provide a historical perspective of prisoners' rights and the current constitutional guarantees to which inmates are entitled.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to attend and be prepared for each class. Inadequate preparation may result in the lowering of the grade for the course!

Class attendance and class participation will account for 25% of your final grade.

Testing counts for 50% of the final grade. Each test will be equally weighted.

There will be no unannounced tests. Considerable notice will be given for the date of each of the tests addressed above.

The final 25% of a student's grade will be taken from special research assignments, which will be presented orally and in writing. These assignments must be submitted on time to avoid grade reduction. The requirement will be explained at the first class.

There is no research paper requirement for the course. However, a paper may be done for extra credit. This is optional with the student. Extra credit will be given for a course paper which will be due two weeks before the last class. I expect a well-written and well-research paper of 7 to 10 pages. If a quality paper is submitted with a grade higher than your test average, your grade for the course will be raised. If the grade for the paper is less than the testing average, the grade for the paper will be disregarded and the final grade will be calculated exclusively on testing. If the student opts for the extra credit paper, I will work with the student to decide a topic. If the student chooses to do the paper, he/she must advise me by the mid-point of the course.

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. Any student found to have violated 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 also be given on a weekly basis.

LIST OF TOPICS *(as set forth in text book):*

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES	Early History (2000 B.C. to A.D. 1800) Prisons (1800 to the Present) Correctional Ideologies: The Pendulum Swings
-------------------------	---

THE COURT PROCESS	Sentencing
-------------------	------------

COURSE OUTLINE

August 25, 2008 - Introduction

August 27, 2008 - Chapter 1

September 1, 2008 - Labor Day Holiday - No Class

September 3, 2008 - Chapter 2

September 8, 2008 - Chapter 3

September 10, 2008 - Chapter 4

September 15, 2008 - Chapter 5

September 17, 2008 - Chapter 5

September 22, 2008 - Test

September 24, 2008 - Chapter 6

September 29, 2008 - Chapter 7

October 1, 2008 - Chapter 8

October 3, 2008 - Mid-Term

October 6, 2008 - Fall Recess - No Class

October 8, 2008 - Chapter 9

October 13, 2008 - Chapter 10

October 15, 2008 - Chapter 11

October 20, 2008 - Chapter 12

October 22, 2008 - Chapter 13

October 27, 2008 - Chapter 14

October 29, 2008 - Chapter 15

November 3, 2008 - Test

November 5, 2008 - Chapter 16

November 10, 2008 - Chapter 16

November 12, 2008 - Chapter 17

November 17, 2008 - Chapter 18

November 19, 2008 - Chapter 19

November 24, 2008 - Chapter 20

November 26, 2008 - Thanksgiving Recess - No Class

December 1, 2008 - Chapter 21

December 3, 2008 - Chapter 22

December 8, 2008 -

December 10, 2008 - Last Class

December 12, 2008 - December 15, 2008 thru December 19, 2008 - Final Exams