

SOCIOLOGY 270 Z  
CORRECTIONS IN AMERICA  
FALL 2012  
MONDAY 630PM

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**TEXT:** DeLisi, Matt, and Peter J. Conis. American Corrections: Theory, Research, Policy, and Practice, Second Edition.  
Massachusetts: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2013.

(Supplemental readings to be announced throughout the semester)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class will explore the historical development of Corrections in America. It will examine the institutionalization of criminals as well as modern community-based approaches. The systematic approach to prison management and organization will also be reviewed. Through readings, lectures, and group discussions, students will explore the dynamics of incarceration, as well as the organizational aspects of the adult probation and parole systems.

### **COURSE GOALS:**

- to gain an understanding of the historical approach to 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 adult offender in America
- to gain empathy for those different than ourselves

### **GRADING:**

Your final grade will be based on a total of 550 points, with this breakdown:

-Mid Term (100 points)	100 points
-Class Participation (50 points)	50 points
-Two quizzes (50 points each)	100 points
-Two Journal Reviews (50 points each)	100 points
-Writing/Oral Assignments (100 points total)	100 points
-Final Exam (100 points)	<u>100 points</u>
	550 points total

Tests and quizzes will be based on information gathered from required reading, lecture notes, and class videos. Due dates for Journal Reviews and Writing/Oral Assignments will be assigned as the semester progresses.

Course grades follow the letter-grade system. Please consult the **Student Handbook** for description of the requirements for attaining each grade. The numerical ranges used in assigning each letter grade in this course are as follows:

A	93-100%	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C -	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

While it is understood that there are circumstances that could prevent a student from attending class (illness, family emergency), **regular attendance is fully expected**. If a class is missed, 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. This is your responsibility!

Attendance will be reflected in your Class Participation grade. Because regular attendance is expected, students may find it difficult to make up class activities that take place during classes for which they are absent. Missed work will result in lost points toward your Class Participation grade.

Class participation, for the purpose of this semester, will be measured by student attendance, attentiveness, and contribution to discussion.

### **MISSED TESTS, QUIZZES, AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Every possible effort should be made to take exams and quizzes on the scheduled dates. Test and quiz dates will be announced with at least a ten day notice. Hard copies of all papers and written assignments must be submitted in person at the beginning of class on the given due date. **In short, do not email your papers!** Any paper or assignment not submitted in this fashion will be considered late. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty (10% deduction) for each day late (including weekends and holidays).

### **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 topics listed below. The list, however, is subject to modification to best fit the needs of the class. Students will be given weekly reading assignments and should be ready at all times to discuss text chapters during class. Each student should expect to work at least five hours per week outside of class, not including study time for tests and quizzes.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Students requesting accommodations in this class due to a disability should contact the assistant director of Academic and Disability Support in the Academic Support Center, Monocacy Hall, lower level (extension 7625). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services. Those interested 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.

(See complete list of lecture topics on next page)

## LIST OF TOPICS AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

### Week One (Aug 27)

- The Syllabus and Other Formalities
- Corrections and Its Place in the Criminal Justice System

### Week Two (Sept 10)

- History of Corrections
- Punishment (Early Times)
- Journal Reviews Assigned

### Week Three (Sept 17)

- Quiz #1
- The Early Prison Systems

### Week Four (Sept 24)

- The Law and Corrections
- Prisoner Rights and Use of Force
- Capital Punishment
- Journal Reviews Due/Discussion

### Week Five (Oct 1)

- Sentencing
- Classification

### Week Six (Oct 15)

- Pretrial Period and Jails
- Review for Mid Term Exam
- Project Discussion

### Week Seven (Oct 22)

- Mid Term Exam

### Week Eight (Oct 29)

- Diversion Programs
- Journal Reviews Assigned

### Week Nine (Nov 5)

- Intermediate Sanctions
- Probation

### Week Ten (Nov 12)

- Quiz #2
- Women and Corrections
- Journal Reviews Due/Discussion

### Week Eleven (Nov 19)

- Inmate Behavior
- Prison Organization

### Week Twelve (Nov 26)

- Parole
- Reentry
- Group Projects

### Week Thirteen (Dec 3)

- Group Projects
- Review for Final Exam

\*Final Exam Monday, December 10, 2012 at 630pm\*

