

Sociology 270- Corrections in America

Fall 2013

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Hon. Emil Giordano
Office Hours: By appointment
Cell Phone: (610) 360-7048
Email: egiord7630@rcn.com

TEXT: Corrections in America: An Introduction, Thirteenth Edition
By: Harry E. Allen, Edward J. Latessa, Bruce S. Ponder.
Pearson Publishers, 2013. ISBN-10: 0132726777, ISBN-13: 978-0132726771.

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; with special emphasis on the role of the courts in sentencing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 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 system.
- To describe objectively and in detail contemporary corrections in the United States in terms of its present structure, clients, management and personal 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 your grade for the course.

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

Tests account for 50% of your final grade. Each test will be equally weighted. There will be no unannounced tests and considerable notice will be given before each test.

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. This requirement will be further explained during our first class.

There is no research paper requirement for this course, however, an **OPTIONAL** paper may be done for extra credit. I expect a well-written and well-researched paper of 7 to 10 pages, due two weeks before our last class. If your quality paper is submitted on time and receives a grade higher than your test average, your grade for the course will be raised. If your grade for the paper

is lower than the testing average, the paper will be disregarded and will not negatively or positively impact your final grade. If the student opts for the extra credit paper, I will work with each student to decide a topic. If you decide to write the extra credit paper, you **MUST** advise me by the middle of the course, **Tuesday, October 8, 2013**.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular attendance is fully expected. It is understood that there are circumstances that would prevent a student from attending a class (illness, family emergency, etc.) The student, in such an event, **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 students 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. The list, however, is subject to modification to best fit the needs of the class. Reading assignments will also be 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 Present)
- Correctional Ideologies: The Pendulum Swings

THE COURT PROCESS

- Sentencing
- Appellate Review

ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

- Probation
- Diversion and Intermediate Sanctions

CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

- Imprisonment
- State and Local Prison Systems
- The Federal System
- Private Sector Prisons

CORRECTIONAL FUNCTIONS

- Custody Functions
- Management and Treatment Functions

INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTS

- Female Offenders
- Male Offenders
- Juvenile Offenders
- Special Category Offenders

RIGHTS OF CORRECTIONAL CLIENTS

- Inmate and Ex-Offender Rights
- The Death Penalty- The Ultimate Right

REINTEGRATION SYSTEMS

- Parole and Reentry

A LINK TO THE FUTURE

- The Future of Corrections

The study of corrections can be exciting. I hope that you too feel that excitement as you proceed through this course. Knowledge increases with challenge. Challenge occurs when students prepare and bring this preparation and experience to exert in class discussion. Thus, we plan to make the course challenging for you! Best wishes!

Judge Emil Giordano