

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Program in Criminal Justice
Prisons and Prisoners: 01:202:203
Section: 01
Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. Michele Muni
Course Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 1:40pm-3:00pm
Course Location: LRB – RC1
Office Hours: Upon Request
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Course Description: *Prerequisite: 01:202:201.* Prisons are total institutions that maintain complete control over inmates socially, physically, etc.). This course will take a critical look at life in prison by exploring how incarceration affects the inmate and the potential consequences for society. Inmates have a number of sociological, psychological, and health related needs. Failing to address prisoner needs could result in higher recidivism rates and an additional burden on tax payers. This course will place emphasis on prisonization and convict criminology. A few words about Convict Criminology: Convict Criminology proposes a methodology, a theory, and a perspective about the study of correctional environments and its occupants. Its study could easily occupy a full semester of work. This semester will provide you with an introduction to that theory and that perspective for your consideration.

Essential Learning Objectives

- To understand the history of the prison, its uses and changes in operation
- To understand the role of prison in society
- To understand the theory of prisonization and why this theory effectively explains prison functioning
- To dispel the myths that surround prison
- An introduction to Convict Criminology
- To explore the perceptions of ex-offenders and others about the correctional process
- To understand the progression through prison for a convict
- To understand the costs of imprisonment
- To Challenge students to continue their inquiry into the correctional experience.

A Statement of Principles

The Program Committee for the Program in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in New Brunswick has adopted a series of learning goals for students who complete the major. These goals represent the consensus of the faculty regarding the concepts a student should grasp and the skills a student should acquire in the course of completing the major. These goals guide the choices faculty make about the structure of the curriculum and the requirements for our majors. Moreover, they guide faculty and instructors preparing course material and teaching courses. The Program in Criminal Justice will provide students with a rich understanding of crime and criminal justice in the United States and abroad through an interdisciplinary approach that blends a strong liberal arts educational experience with pre-professional instruction in the field of criminal justice. Graduates of the program will be well-informed citizens on the topic of crime and justice, and qualified for graduate study or for employment as practitioners in a variety of legal, policymaking, and law enforcement fields.

Criminal justice majors graduating from a research university should be able to use

critical thinking, factual inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to individual and group behavior. In addition, students should have an understanding of the legal, political and policymaking processes that affect criminal justice systems in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Finally, students should be familiar with the institutional structures and latest developments in the field in order to engage in meaningful debate about current public policy issues.

Learning Goals for Criminal Justice Majors

1. Competence

Theory. Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand and be able to articulate, both orally and in writing, the core theoretical concepts that form the foundation of analysis and research in criminology and criminal justice today. Core concepts are derived from explanations of crime from a variety of perspectives, including biogenic, psychological, and sociological approaches. There are a myriad of theories of crime that are informed by these perspectives, including: classical, control, critical, ecology, labeling, learning, strain, and trait-based approaches. Theoretical literacy should extend to multicultural and international understanding.

Institutions. Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand the special role of three types of institutions: Police, Corrections, and Courts. In addition, students should know how institutional forms vary across jurisdictions and how these institutions interact with and influence each other.

Research Methods. Students who complete the criminal justice major should be familiar with the tools, techniques, and data sources necessary for empirical analysis. Students should understand the various ways that empirical analysis is used in the scientific approach: for description, for developing, and for testing theories. They should be able to analyze data using computer applications and should be familiar with basic statistical techniques and regression analysis. They should be able to read and assess research from a wide range of sources, including general interest, academic, and government publications.

2. Critical Thinking

Upon completion of the major students should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and quantitative tools to analyze and research real world problems, and evaluate alternative policy proposals on a range of criminal justice issues, from micro-level analyses relevant to particular cases to management concerns to macro-level analyses of legislative and other broad-scale policies. Accomplishment of this goal will require that students can apply their literacy and numeracy skills to different institutional structures, within the U.S. and across countries.

3. Scholarship

Qualified majors should have an opportunity through such avenues as advanced coursework, internships, and faculty interactions to conduct independent research on matters of central relevance to the field of criminal justice.

Readings and Required Materials

- Welch, Michael (2011): *Corrections A Critical Approach*, 3rd Edition.
- Ross, J. & Richards, S. (2003) *Convict Criminology*.

*Anybody that has a financial hardship and will have difficulties obtaining these books, please see me after class.

Course Grading

Grades will be determined accordingly:

- Quizzes (3 @ 30 points each) - 90 points
- Exams (2 @ 60 points each) 120 points

Grading: All grades will be based on a points system. Each grade will be given in total points earned. The points each student earns on the course requirements will be added at the end of the semester and the following grades will be assigned based on points earned.

A 100-90
B+ 89-86
B 85-80
C+ 79-76
C 75-70
D 69-60
F _59

Incompletes – **The instructor will not give incompletes.** All work must be handed in on specific due dates. Any questions regarding grades must be submitted in writing to the instructor within one week of receiving the grade.

Course Requirements

- 1) **Attendance/Participation** – The course will require that all students attend each face-to-face class and participate in class – **attendance is mandatory**. The majority of students will not be able to function effectively in the course if they do not attend class and complete homework and exams. Failure to participate will result in a lower final grade. Participation in the class will help you and others get a better grasp on the material.
- 2) **Missing Class** – It is expected that students attend all classes. However, if you need to miss one class, it is your responsibility to get notes/missed work from a classmate BEFORE the next class. It is expected that each student will be fully prepared for each class. If you do need to miss one class, please complete the University absence reporting website:
<http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/courses/registration-and-course-policies/attendance-and-cancellationof-class>

THIS, HOWEVER, WILL NOT EXCUSE YOUR ABSENCE

- 3) **Snow Days** – When classes are cancelled due to snow or inclement weather, please check: The Rutgers Website <http://www.rutgers.edu> and the New Brunswick Campus Website <http://nb.rutgers.edu> with links to the "Campus Status Page" which is posted when adverse weather conditions are present or expected on campus and will generally include information on office closings, class cancellations, bus schedules, as well as the operational hours for dining halls and recreation/student centers.
- 4) **Course Readings:** Readings are assigned for Tuesday and Thursdays of each week.
- 5) **Exams and Quizzes:** There will be two exams and three quizzes. Each test will be based on a section of the course material. This means that the tests *are not cumulative*; however, you will need to know some of the material in the beginning of the course in order to understand the

material in subsequent parts. BE AWARE THAT ALTHOUGH EXAMS ARE NOT PREDOMINATELY CUMULATIVE, YOU MAY BE ASKED QUESTIONS FROM PRIOR EXAMS.

- **Class policy:** No student may start the test after the first student has finished the test and left the room.

Cell Phones, Pagers, Etc. – No electronic devices can ring or be used during a test. All devices should be turned to silent or off (not vibrate) and put away from the desk. Any person with an electronic device that sounds or is handled during a test will receive a zero. On non-test days I ask that you do not answer phone calls/write or receive texts so that you can fully participate in class.

6) Course Policies

Academic Honesty – **Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any shape or form.** Each student is responsible for understanding the concept of academic dishonesty and will face consequences if s/he takes part in **any form** of academic dishonesty in this class. A student who commits academic dishonesty will receive a zero on the assignment or test and be reported to Current Academic Integrity Policy: Academic dishonesty is further elaborated upon in the student handbook and at the college website at:

http://www.academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

This is the official academic integrity policy enforced by the college and will be strictly upheld in this class. **DO NOT BORROW, STEAL or LOOK at another student's HOMEWORK or TEST. This is plagiarism and you will receive a zero for the work.**

- 7) ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS – Students with disabilities who seek accommodations should make their request by contacting <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Assignment to be completed before class
21-Jan	SCHOOL CANCELED SNOW DAY	
23-Jan	Presentation of the syllabus and Presentation of <i>Three Sovereigns for Sarah</i> in preparation For January 30 th lecture	
Philosophies of Punishment		
28-Jan	The Imprisonment Binge	The Prisoners World: Chapters 2-3 and Convict Criminology: Chapters 1-2
30-Jan	History of Punishment & Prisons RETRIBUTION	Welch: Chapter 2 Convict Criminology: Chapter 2
04-Feb	America's Penal Past - Intro To Theory DETERRENCE	Welch: Chapter 3 Convict Criminology: Chapter 4
06-Feb	Scared Straight Video	Welch: Chapter 4
11-Feb	America's Penal Past: Rehabilitation & Incapacitation	Welch: Chapter 4
13-Feb	QUIZ ONE	STUDY
18-Feb	Modern Marvels: Prisons - Video	
20-Feb	NO Class ACJS	
Living in Prison- Past to Present		
25-Feb	The discovery of the asylum/The social world of inmates	Welch Chapter 5 Convict Criminology 7
27-Feb	Prison Gang Documentary	
4-March	Assaults & Riots	Welch Chapter 9
6--March	Women in Corrections	Welch: Chapter 6
11-March	Midterm Exam	STUDY
13-March	Mentally ill in Corrections	Convict Criminology Chapter 13
18-20 March	SPRING BREAK	
Jan 29 thru Mar 24	Undergraduate Drop Period with a "W" grade	
25-March	Juveniles in Corrections	Welch Chapter 7 Convict Criminology Chapter 16
TOPICS IN CORRECTIONS		
27-March	Minorities in Corrections	Welch Chapter 8
1-April	The War on Drugs	Welch: Chapter 16
3-April	Death Penalty	Welch Chapter 10
8- April	QUIZ TWO	
10- April	Jails and Detention	Welch Chapter 11
15-April	Prisoners' Rights and Health Care	Convict Criminology Chapter 12

17-April	Alternatives to Incarceration	Welch Chapter 13
22- April	Reentry	Convict Criminology 8-9
24 - April	Working in Prison	Welch Chapter 14
29-April	QUIZ THREE	STUDY
1-May	The Correctional Industry/Privitization of Corrections	Welch Chapter 15
6-May	GITMO 60 Minutes	Welch Chapter 17
Final Exam During Exam Period		