

**Criminal Justice and Mental Illness:
Treatment Based Approach**

Spring 2017

January 17, 2017 to May 1, 2017

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Textbook: Sick Justice Inside the American Gulag, by Goldman, Ivan G.

Course Description:

The topic of mentally ill and/ or chemically addicted (MICA) offenders is clearly at the forefront of the NJ legal systems development. The recent expansions of Drug Court and appointment of Mental Health Probation Officers are examples of this. MICA issues play a central role in getting people in the system. With the recent closing of psychiatric hospitals due to funding; prisons are becoming home to individuals with mental illness; when given the appropriate treatment would not otherwise be. Lack of treatment and resources leads to criminal activity. The drug addict that robs a home to get money for drugs or the untreated mentally ill person decompensating because of lack of medication and whose odd behavior leads to assaultive confrontation with police; which eventually leads to revolving door legal issues. There are programs developed specifically for military veteran offenders with PTSD, who have committed usually violent offenses related to their trauma often fueled by addiction. This course will focus on this population and treatment used with legal leverage. It will review the options available and resources provided by the state. Treatment and preventative measures while a person is in prison, or supervised release helps the community, and prevents recidivism. The legal system needs to work and understand how to use these resources for successful rehabilitation.

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course will be to develop an understanding of the dynamics behind the correlation between crime and mental illness, and the treatment alternatives to incarceration that are available. After successful completion of the course, the student should:

- (A) have an accurate, detailed, understanding of identifying causes which lead to incarceration among individuals with mental illness
- (B) appreciate and understand the value of learning offender perspective
And their ability for rehabilitation
- (C) to be able to clearly distinguish between theory and reality of various research regarding mental illness and the criminal justice system
- (D) understand the impact of current issues, challenges and trends have on recidivism regarding untreated mental illness
- (E) to be able to understand the various agencies involved in community supervision and the state laws which govern them

Final Assessment of Grades will be as follows:

50% Exams

30% Paper

Class Participation 20%

Class Participation is weighted in this course because it aids in the student's ability to understand the impact of untreated mental illness and crime in our society. Also, an interactive approach aids in the student's learning and creates an environment where an exchange of ideas is valued.

Included in the class participation grade is an oral presentation of one chapter from the textbook. You will be assigned a specific chapter to present to the class. The oral presentation needs to be accompanied by a typed hand-out, which provides an in-depth review of the chapter's major themes and content. This outline will enhance your presentation and be part of your grade.

Cheating and Plagiarism
Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.

Overview of Class Schedule, which is subject to change depending on the progress of the class: There will be numerous guest speakers and a field trip to Bo Robinson (DOC) Trenton, NJ.

Class 1: January 17, 2017
Discussion of course syllabus; students' introduction

Class 2: January 24, 2017
Chapter 1: The Mostly Invisible Catastrophe

Class 3: January 31, 2017
Chapter 2: Fear, Loathing, and Guns

Class 4: February 7, 2017
Chapter 3: Informants

Class 5: February 21, 2017
Chapter 4: The War on Drugs (and Reason)

Class 6: February 28, 2017
Chapter 5: The Death of Rachel Hoffman

Class 7: March 7, 2017
Chapter 6: Three Strikes and You're Out

Spring Recess March 11, 2017 to March 19, 2017 NO CLASS

Class 9: March 21, 2017
Chapter 7: Prison Privateers and jailing for Cash

Class 10: March 28, 2017
Chapter 8: Drug use and Addiction/Drunkenness and Alcoholism

Class 11: April 4, 2017
Chapter 9: Deporting for Cash

Class 12: April 11, 2017
Chapter 10: The War against the Poor (and Middle Class)

Class 13: April 18, 2017
Chapter 12: Crazy Consequences
Chapter 13: The Insanity of Mental Health Practices

Class 14: April 25, 2017
Chapter 15: Legacy Inmates/ "The Future"
Final Review

Final Date to be determined.