# Sociology 363 Corrections and Rehabilitation Adrian College, Fall 2010 August 23-December 10

**Instructor:** Alexandra Gerber **Course Time:** Monday and Wednesday, 10am-11:40pm

Email: <u>alexaz@umich.edu</u> Class Room: Valade 103

**Office Hours:** by appointment

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

"The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons." –Fyodor Dostoyevsky

According to the famous sociologist, Emile Durkheim, crime is natural, inevitable, and beneficial to society. Whether or not you agree with Durkheim, crime is a significant social issue, and the question of how to deal with criminals is one that continues to be hotly debated by law enforcement officials, academics, policy makers, communities, and many others. In this class, you will learn the social origin of prisons, and learn about the various types of correctional facilities that have existed over time. In addition, you will learn about the contemporary correctional process, from sentencing through to parole and re-entry in most cases, or death for others.

While we are learning about the practical workings of the correctional system—at the local, state, and federal levels—I want you to always keep in mind the following questions:

- 1) What do we believe is the purpose of our correctional system?
- 2) Does our correctional system accurately reflect our societal values?
- 3) Is our correctional system working to make society safer?
- 4) How should we spend our limited public resources?

#### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

• Exams (35%): The tests will be comprised of some combination of any or all of the following: IDs, true/false, multiple choice, matching, definition, short answer, or essay questions. The final exam WILL be cumulative.

Mid-Term: October 6 worth 15% of your total grade Final: December 10 worth 20% of your exam grade Exams will not be rescheduled for any reason other than medical or family emergency

(with valid supporting documentation).

• **Policy Briefs** (35%): Over the course of the semester, you will be responsible for writing three 6-8 page "position papers" or policy briefs concerning major topics in corrections: correctional models and sentencing structures; overcrowding; privatization; and program evaluation. These

papers will require that you do additional, outside research. I will post detailed assignments to Blackboard, including links to data sources and other places to look for your research material.

• Attendance & Class Participation (20%): This class will be run like a seminar, so your active participation is requested (and required). You are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and come prepared to contribute to class discussion. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. Of course, sometimes life intervenes, so I will allow THREE unexcused absences. You do not need to tell me you will be absent, you do not need a note, you do not even need an excuse. However, any absence beyond those three will result in a deduction of one-third of your final participation grade (A becomes A-; A- becomes B+, etc). The only possible excuse for more than three absences is a hospitalization. I recognize that people also sometimes run late, but if you are late more than THREE times, I will count that as an absence. If you arrive late or miss class, you are responsible for arranging to get any handouts or materials you might have missed. Ways to participate include contributing to class discussion, listening attentively and respectfully to your fellow classmates when they are talking, and coming prepared with questions or comments on the day's reading. In addition, we will do some occasional (and informal) in-class writing, and I reserve the right to give you surprise quizzes.

Points	1	2	3	4
Participation	None	Weak	Average	Active
Example	Shows up but is	Obviously does	Reads the	Thinks critically,
	silent or	not read material,	material,	discusses material,
	distracting (uses	seldom	participates	comes with
	phone or has side	participates	regularly	questions prepared
	conversations)			

Each of you, at least twice during the semester, will be "on call" for the day. When you are "on call" it means you share leadership responsibility for generating and sustaining good classroom discussion. Additionally, you will be responsible for posting a summary sheet that includes a list of the core topics, key terms, theorists or researchers, and studies we covered that day, to the course Blackboard site. A sample summary sheet will be made available to you use as a guide.

• **Final Exam Review** (5%): Each of you will be responsible for preparing a mock final exam, designed to test your classmates (and yourself) on the material we've covered over the entire term. You will write both a mock exam and an answer key. This assignment is intended to test your knowledge of the material, and to help you start preparing for the final exam. Particularly good questions might even be included on the final exam. I will post more detailed instructions about this assignment later on in the semester.

The grading scale is as follows:

97-100	A+	84-86	В	70-73	C-
94-96	A	80-83	B-	65-69	D+
90-93	A-	77-79	C+	60-64	D
87-89	B+	74-76	C	< 60	F

### **POLICIES:**

- Office Hours/Email: I will be available immediately after class to answer questions or meet with you individually. Additionally, please feel free to e-mail me with any concerns or questions. I will make every effort to reply to emails as promptly as possible, which means within 12 hours between Monday and Thursday, and within 24 hours over the weekend. I have taken considerable effort to ensure that the information you need regarding due dates, classroom policies, readings, the format of the tests, and where to find additional information, is all on the syllabus. Therefore, before emailing or asking me, check the syllabus to see if there's an answer to your question. If the answer is not there, then definitely ask me directly. I won't respond to emails about material covered on the syllabus.
- Cell Phones and Laptops: Cell phones must be on silent, and should be stored out of sight during class. Texting or talking on the phone in class is absolutely prohibited, not to mention extremely rude, and you will be asked to leave if I observe you doing it. If you are expecting an important phone call, or have an emergency, feel free to leave the classroom to take the call and return when you are finished. If you are going to use your laptop to take notes, I ask that you disable your wireless adapter at the start of class so as to not be seduced by the call of the internet. If I find that you are using your technology inappropriately during class, I will ask you to leave.
- Make up exams and late assignments are only permitted in the case of documented illness or documented family emergency.
- Academic honesty is expected of all students in accordance with the College's Academic Dishonesty and Integrity Policy included in your Student Handbook. Suspected violations relating to course work in this class will be reported to the College. If you are discovered cheating or plagiarizing on a given assignment, you will receive an automatic 0 (zero) for that assignment for the first offense. If it happens a second time, you will automatically fail the course and be reported to Student Life for additional sanctions. If you are ever in any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to ask me. But make sure to do so before you hand in an assignment rather than after. The burden of knowing right from wrong is on you.
- If you have a documented disability you may qualify for specific academic services. Speak with me or with any of the Academic Services staff in Jones 205, extension 4413. Documentation of the disability is required.

## **READINGS:**

The following textbook has been ordered, and should be available to you in the campus bookstore:

Allen, Harry E., Edward J. Latessa, Bruce S. Ponder. *Corrections in America: An Introduction* (12th Edition). Prentice Hall.

Additional readings will be posted to Blackboard as PDFs that you can read on-screen or download/print as you prefer. **These additional readings are not optional**.

I reserve the right to make changes, additions and deletions to the weekly readings. If I do make changes, I will give you a minimum of one week's notice of the change, and will send out an additional email reminder when posting the new readings to our Blackboard site.

# **SCHEDULE:**

Date	Reading/Class Preparation	Assignment Due
Mon, Aug 23	Review syllabus, introduce ourselves	
Weds, Aug 25	Allen et al Ch. 1: Historical Perspectives	
	(Antiquity to 1800)	
	Foucault, selections from chapters 1 and 2 of	
	Discipline and Punish	
Mon, Aug 30	Allen et al Ch. 2: Historical Perspectives (1800	
	to present)	
	Foucault, selections from chapters 3 and 4 of	
	Discipline and Punish	
Weds, Sept 1	Allen et al Ch. 3: Correctional Ideology	
_	Stucky et. al. "State Corrections Spending and	
	the Politics of Social Order"	
Mon, Sept 6	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	
Weds, Sept 8	Allen et al Ch. 4: Sentencing and Appeals	
	Frase "State Sentencing Guidelines"	
Mon, Sept 13	Allen et al Ch. 5: Probation	Position Paper #1 Due
	Taxman "Probation and Diversion"	
Weds, Sept 15	Allen et al Ch. 6: Diversion and Intermediate	
Weds, Sept 13	Sanctions	
	Weissman "Aspiring to the Impracticable"	
	Williams et. al. "A Qualitative Study of	
	Offenders' Preferences for Prison Compared to	
	Alternatives "	
Mon, Sept 20	Case Study: The War on Drugs and the	
, 1	American Prison System	
	SPR "Prisoner Rape and the War on Drugs"	
	Additional readings TBA	
Weds, Sept 22	Allen et al Ch. 7: Custody Functions	Guest Speaker: Cary
_		Johnson, Correctional
		Officer
Mon, Sept 27	Supermax, Isolation, and Overcrowding	
_	Kurki and Morris "The Purposes, Practices, and	
	Problems of Supermax Prisons"	

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	Wynn and Szatrowski "Hidden Prisons"	
	ACLU "Michigan Breaks the Political Log Jam"	
Weds, Sept 29	Allen et al Ch. 8: Management and Treatment	
	Functions	
	Huebner "Determinants of Inmate Violence"	
	Steurer and Smith "Education Reduces Crime"	
Mon, Oct 4	Allen et al Ch. 9: Jails and Detention	
	"Michigan State Administrative Rules for Jails	
	and Lockups"	
Weds, Oct 6		Mid-term Exam
Mon, Oct 11	NO CLASS (Mid-term Break)	
Weds, Oct 13	Allen et al Ch. 10: State and Local Prisons	
	The Council of State Governments' Report on	
	Michigan Prisons	
	(http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/0,1607,7-	
	119207344,00.html : make sure to read all 3	
	documents)	
Mon, Oct 18	Allen et al Ch. 11: The Federal System	
,	BoP "State of the Bureau 2008" (read the	
	"Snapshot of Disciplines" section, and look at	
	the FY 2008 statistics on page 61	
Weds, Oct 20	Immigrant Detention, Military Prisons	
, veas, eet 20	Case Study: Guantanamo Bay	
	Amnesty International "Jailed Without Justice:	
	Immigration Detention in the USA"	
	Wikipedia Entry on Military Prisons:	
	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_prison	
	Franklin "How Did Guantanamo Become a	
	Prison?"	
Mon, Oct 25	Allen et al Ch. 12: Private-Sector Systems	
171011, 000 20	Miller "Drain of Public Prisons Systems and the	
	Role of Privatization"	
Weds, Oct 27	Allen et al Ch. 13: Parole and Reentry	Position Paper #2 Due
	Seiter and Kadela "Prisoner Reentry: What	Total Tapel 112 Dae
	Works and What Doesn't"	
Mon, Nov 1	Allen et al Ch. 14: The Death Penalty	
1,1011, 1,10 / 1	Prejean excerpt from <i>Dead Man Walking</i>	
Weds, Nov 3	Allen et al Ch. 15: Inmate and Ex-Offender	
11005,11075	Rights	
	Dumond "Confronting America's Most Ignored	
	Crime Problem"	
Mon, Nov 8	Rights, part 2	
141011, 1404 6	Mushlin and Galtz "Getting Real About Race	
	and Prisoner Rights"	
	Feierman "The Power of the Pen"	
	Manza et al "Civil Death or Civil Rights?"	

Weds, Nov 10	Allen et al Ch. 16: Male Offenders	Position Paper #3 Due
	Trulson et al "Gang Suppression and	-
	Institutional Control"	
Mon, Nov 15	Allen et al Ch. 17: Female Offenders	
	Stoller "The Importance of Gender in US	
	Prisons"	
Weds, Nov 17	Allen et al Ch. 18: Juvenile Offenders	
	OJJDP 2006 National Report (make sure to look	
	at chapters 3 and 7)	
Mon, Nov 22	Allen et al Ch. 19: Special Category Offenders	Mock Exam Due
	Just Detention International "Protecting the	
	Rights of LGBTQ Detainees"	
Weds, Nov 24	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	
Mon, Nov 29	Families: Also Doing Time	
	Christian "Riding the Bus"	
Weds, Dec 1	IN CLASS REVIEW	
Friday, Dec 10		Final Exam (8:30-10:30
		am)