

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY - - DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYLLABUS (FALL 2011): JUST 3008 (SECTION 001) - - CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS

COURSE INFORMATION:

Class Meeting Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
Class Location: Howell Science North, Room 102
Instructor: Dr. John Johnson Kerbs, Associate Professor
Instructor's E-mail Address: kerbsj@ecu.edu
Office: 330 Rivers West
Office Phone: 1-252-328-5546
Cell Phone: 1-850-212-3319
Office Hours: Tuesdays from 2:00 .p.m to 7:00 p.m., or by appointment.

COURSE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

Review of federal, state, and local correctional operations. Role and purpose of correctional facilities, historical and philosophical development, management and organizational principles, custody and security operations, treatment and classification issues, custody levels of various correctional facilities for men and women, and role of correctional personnel.

GENERAL PURPOSE OF COURSE:

In general, this course examines how correctional systems operate at the county, state, and federal level. To this end, this course examines the following: 1) criminological, economic, historical, legal, medical, psychological, recreational, and social considerations facing prisoners in America. This course will provide a special focus on: 1) juveniles, women, and older people in prison; 2) prisoners who are at-risk for various adverse outcomes in prison because of age-, gender-, and race-related issues; and 3) policy implications stemming from multi-disciplinary research regarding how to advance services for young prisoners, older prisoners, female prisoners, and prisoners of varying racial/ethnic backgrounds.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to do the following:

- 1) To analyze the prisonization process;
 - 2) To examine the local, state, and federal correctional systems in detail;
 - 3) To examine sentencing trends and how they impact the correctional system;
 - 4) To assess the correctional population;
 - 5) To analyze the prisoner security classification process;
 - 6) To discuss the role of prisons in society today and in the future;
 - 7) To examine the organization and structure of the prison system;
 - 8) To examine prison operations and their current objectives;
 - 9) To analyze the role and responsibilities of custody and security personnel;
 - 10) To examine the role of administrative personnel;
 - 11) To examine the role of treatment personnel within the prison system; and
 - 12) To analyze future trends, concerns, and careers in corrections.
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METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

I will teach this course through a series of Power-Point lectures that will complement: 1) required weekly readings from a textbook; 2) class handouts; and 3) other materials, which will be available online in the Blackboard system - - see "Course Documents" folder.

CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION PLAN:

In the event that ECU classes are suspended due to a pandemic, inclement weather conditions, or other catastrophe, I will strive to continue to provide instruction to those who are able to participate. In the case of suspension of face-to-face classes, you will receive an email from me as well as a Blackboard announcement that details how we will communicate, where you can locate course information, and what you can expect during this time period. I realize that some of you who are directly affected by the event will not be able to participate, but I will provide instruction to those who are able to receive information via the internet: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/eai/continuity.cfm> See academic regulations at: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/ugcat/regulations.cfm>

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:

Reading is required for each and every week of the semester as outlined in this syllabus. **You are required to buy the new edition (i.e., the ninth edition) of this textbook as noted below:**

Clear, T. R., Cole, G. F., & Reisig, M. D. (2011). *American Corrections - Ninth Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/ CENGAGE Learning. (ISBN #: 978-0-495-80748-3)

Additional readings may be required, but they will be available online and so students will not incur costs for these PDF (Adobe Acrobat) documents.

Note: Two new copies of this textbook are available via short-term reserve at the Joyner Library's reserve desk. If you cannot immediately purchase this textbook due to financial reasons, you may use the copies on reserve to xerox as needed. If the reserve copies are damaged or pages are cut out, they will be permanently removed from the reserve desk for the remainder of the semester. Thus, please keep these two books in great condition.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS:

None.

EXAMINATIONS:

There will be three exams for this course. Each examination is worth 25% of your final grade. The format of these exams will include the following: 1) true/false questions; 2) multiple-choice questions; 3) fill-in-the-blank questions; and 4) short-answer/essay questions. All exams will cover both lecture material and required readings. Please keep the following in mind:

- 1) No make-up exams will be given without a documented emergency (e.g., hospitalization, family death). The student must contact the instructor prior to the exam or as soon as practical thereafter if s/he is unable to take the exam as scheduled due to a *documented* emergency. Without a documented emergency, the student will receive a zero for the missed exam.
- 2) All exams will cover lectures, handouts, and readings required through the week of the examination. For example, the first examination will cover all readings/lectures ***including*** those materials that are due during the week of the first exam.
- 3) ***You must arrive on time for all examinations.*** If you arrive after the examination begins (but prior to the first person leaving the exam), you will automatically receive a ten-point reduction in your total exam score. If you arrive after the first person leaves any given examination, then you will receive an automatic “F” (i.e., a zero) for the examination due to problems with security that are created by people arriving after others have left the test.
- 3) Examinations are ***not*** cumulative.
- 4) **All make-up exams will consist of essay questions. All make-up exams should be scheduled within one (1) week of the missed test.**

QUIZZES:

To encourage attendance and the completion of all assigned readings each week, I will give a series of 6 random (unscheduled) quizzes. I will only count your four (4) highest quiz scores towards your grade (i.e., you get to drop two quiz scores). Each quiz, typically given at the start of class, is worth a maximum of 5 points towards your final grade. If you do not arrive on time for class, you will not be allowed to take the quiz (i.e., you will get a “zero” for a grade on a missed quiz) ***and there will be no make-up quizzes.*** All quizzes are unannounced, in-class, closed-book, and focused on the readings due for the week of the quiz. Statistically, each quiz counts for 5% of your total course grade (20% for all 4 quizzes combined).

OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students will not be penalized for missing a class or examination due to the observance of a religious holiday. If any schedule conflict exists, a written statement ***must be submitted to the instructor prior to the end of the second class meeting.***

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Please understand that, as your professor, I am professionally invested in seeing you succeed in this course and in your college careers. Students that attend classes learn more and they are also less likely to drop out of college. Hence, I strongly suggest that you attend all classes.

To encourage attendance, participation, and the completion of all assigned readings each week, I will take attendance and give students grades for participation. Attendance and participation are worth 5% of your final course grade. Attendance, class discussions, participation, activities and exercises are not assigned a letter grade,

but are computed in the instructor's rating of the student. The instructor's rating will also be computed on the basis of class attendance. **If you miss 3 classes, your end-of-semester grade will decrease by 3 points. If you miss 4 classes, your term grade will drop by 4 points (5 days/5 points). IF YOU MISS 6 CLASSES, YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE FOR THE TERM. If you have an excused absence with proper documentation, you have one week from the date of absence to provide proper documentation to the professor. Should you fail to provide documentation within one week, your absence will be considered unexcused and irrevocable (i.e., the professor will not be able to review documentation at the end of the semester). Participation in on-going class discussions is mandatory.**

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

It is important that students conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to a productive learning environment. Accordingly, all students are responsible for the following:

- 1) You should be in class prior to 9:30 a.m. (i.e., before class begins). If you arrive late, you may join the class, but please enter quietly. If you disrupt the class upon entering, you will be asked to leave. **If you arrive after attendance, please see the instructor after class to assure that you are documented as attending the class (i.e., it is your responsibility to make sure you are not listed as absent).**
- 2) You must complete the assigned weekly readings before class meets on Tuesdays so that you can answer questions in class and participate in discussions as needed. Additionally, failure to complete the weekly readings will severely hurt your performance on the unscheduled quizzes.
- 3) All students should avoid engaging in disruptive activities (e.g., carry on private conversations, checking email, surfing the net, etc) during class. Students who disrupt class will be asked to leave and may be removed from the course by the instructor following appropriate notice. Students removed from this course under this policy will receive a grade of "drop" according to university policy and are eligible for a tuition refund as specified in ECU's refund tuition policy.
- 4) **Students attending JUST3008 should disable all electronic devices during class. If you are caught with an electronic device on your desk or if you are caught using electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, Blackberries, I-Phones, I-Pods, MP3-players, Smart Phones, DROIDS, email devices, text , messaging devices, etc) in class, then you will be asked to leave class and you will receive an unexcused absence for the day. Laptops may only be used in the first two rows of the classroom for taking notes and not to surf the net. Students who use laptops to surf the net or engage in email or messaging or chatting or u-tubing or twittering or face-booking or my-spacing will not be allowed to return to class with laptops for the remainder of the semester.**

POLICY ON DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR:

East Carolina University is committed to providing each student with a rich, distinctive educational experience. To this end, students who do not follow reasonable standards of behavior in the classroom or other academic setting may be removed from the course by the instructor following appropriate notice. Students removed from a course under this policy will receive a grade of "drop" according to university policy and are eligible for tuition refund as specified in the current tuition refund policy.

GRADE EVALUATION:

EXAMINATION	MAXIMUM POINT VALUE
Test #1	25 Points
Test #2	25 Points
Test #3	25 Points
Top 4 Quizzes	20 Points
Attendance	5 Points
	100 Total Possible Points

GRADING SCALE:

GRADE	SCORE RANGE
A	90-100
B	80-89.999
C	70-79.999
D	60-69.999
F	0-59.999

If needed, final course grades will be curved up so that the median grade for this class is in the “B” range. All grades are never curved down, only up as needed.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic integrity is expected of every East Carolina University student. Academic honor is the responsibility of the students and faculty of East Carolina University. Consult the ECU website for questions, guidelines, appeals, and other information: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/policyhub/academic_integrity.cfm

Academically violating the ECU Student Honor Code consists of the following:

1. Cheating. Unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work.

2. Plagiarism. Copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and adopting same as ones own original work (Example: copying the answers on a test from another student).
3. Falsification. Statement of any untruth, either spoken or written, regarding any circumstances relative to academic work.
4. Attempts. Attempting any act that, if completed, would constitute an academic integrity violation as defined herein.

In practical terms, if you cheat on a test or quiz, you will receive an “F” for this course and you will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs. Please review the information at the website located above and familiarize yourself with: 1) what constitutes academic dishonesty; and 2) the rights and responsibilities of both students and faculty.

AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) POLICY:

East Carolina University seeks to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to the Department of Disability Services, located in 138 Slay, to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. The telephone number is 252-737-1016 and their website is as follows: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/dss/>. Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations should (1) register with and provide documentation of the disability to ECU’s Department of Disability Support Services, and (2) bring a letter to the instructor documenting the required accommodation. This should be done during the first week of class or as soon as possible after verification is completed with the Department of Disability Services.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS:

Final examinations will be held at the close of each term in all courses. There will be no departure from the printed schedule of examinations. **Changes for individual emergencies of a serious nature will be made only with the approval of the instructor, the student’s major chairperson, director, or dean.** The departmental chairperson, school director, or the college dean will, if a serious emergency is believed to exist, forward a written request to the Office of the Registrar, setting forth the nature of the emergency. A student who is absent from an examination without a documented excuse of a serious nature may be given a grade of “F” in the course. The instructor may issue an incomplete (I) in the case of a student absent from the final examination who has presented a satisfactory excuse or an official university excuse from the Dean of Students or his/her designee. [<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/ugcat/regulations.cfm>]

For additional information about issues concerning the final examination, please see the previous section entitled “EXAMINATIONS” for more details regarding policies and procedures.

WEEKLY READINGS AND TESTS

Week #1 [August 23 & 25]: Syllabus Review and Course Overview

Chapter 1: The Corrections System

Week #2 [August 30 & September 1]: Historical Aspects of Correctional Theory and Practice

Lecture: An Expanded View of the Convict Lease System as Applied to Juveniles

Chapter 2: The Early History of Correctional Thought and Practice AND

Chapter 3: The History of Corrections in America”

Week #3 [September 6 (Classes Cancelled for Make-up Day on 9/5) & September 8]: Punishment

Lecture: Understanding Sentencing Disparities for Different Racial and Ethnic Groups

Chapter 4: The Punishment of Offenders

Week #4 [September 13 & September 15]: Legal Issues Facing Correctional Systems

Lecture: Classifying Older Prisoners & the Legal Implications of an Ageing Prison Population

Chapter 5: The Law of Corrections AND

Chapter 6: The Correctional Client

Week #5 [September 20 & September 22]: Jails

Lecture: The Historical and Contemporary Placement of Juveniles (Under Age 18) in Adult Jails

Chapter 7: Jails - Detention and Short-Term Incarceration.

Week #6 [September 27 & September 29 (TEST #1)]: Community Corrections and Community Supervision

Lecture: The Role of Risk Assessments for Determining Access to Intermediate Sanctions

Chapter 8: Probation AND

Chapter 9: Intermediate Sanctions and Community Corrections

The first test will be held on 9/29/11 (Thursday) and it will cover everything in Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6.

Week #7 [October 4 & October 6]: Privatization

Lecture: Privatization of Prisons and Recidivism in the Florida Department of Corrections

Chapter 10: Incarceration AND

Chapter 11: The Prison Experience

Week #8 [October 11 (FALL BREAK-Cancelled Class) & October 13]: The Management of Prisons for Women

Lecture: Legal Issues Concerning Cross-Gender Supervision

Chapter 12: Incarceration of Women AND

Chapter 13: Institutional Management

Week #9 [October 18 & October 20]: Prison Programming

Lecture: Will Prison Programs Ever Work for Older Prisoners?

Chapter 14: Institutional Programs AND

Chapter 15: Release from Incarceration

Week #10 [October 25 & October 27]: Obstacles to Supervision in the Community

Lecture: The Collateral Consequences of Incarceration - Implications for Making on the Outside

Chapter 16: Making It - Supervision in the Community.

Week #11 [November 1 & November 3 (TEST #2)]: The Correctional Handling of Juveniles

Lecture: The Juvenile Death Penalty in the United States of America

Chapter 17: Corrections for Juveniles.

The second test will be held on 11/03/11 (Thursday) and it will cover everything in Weeks 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11.

WEEKLY READINGS AND TESTS - - CONTINUED

Week #12 [November 8 & November 10]: Explaining Trends in Prison Populations

Lecture: Recidivist Sentencing Strategies - - Effects and Consequences

Chapter 18: Incarceration Trends. ***AND***

Chapter 19: Race, Ethnicity, and Corrections.

Week #13 [November 15 & November 17 (movie day=Women on Death Row)]: The Death Penalty in America
"Chapter 20: The Death Penalty."

Week #14 [November 22 & November 24 (Class Cancelled Due to Break)]:

Practical, Legal, & Ethical Considerations for Community Surveillance

Lecture: Issues Concerning Community Corrections and Non-Residential Intermediate Sanctions

Chapter 21: Surveillance and Control in the Community

Week #15 [November 29 & December 1]: Restorative Justice and Community Justice

Lecture: Family Group Conferences - Ethical Issues in the RJ Movement (Exercise)

Chapter 22: Community Justice.

Chapter 23: American Corrections - - Looking Forward

Week #16 [December 8 (DONUT PARTY- - MANDATORY ATTENDANCE)]: The Future of Corrections in America

Lecture: New Ways of Understanding Program Evaluations

FINAL EXAMINATION: December 8th (Thursday) FROM 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

This final examination will include true/false questions, multiple choice questions, and fill-in-the-blanks.

It will only cover material reviewed during the last third of the semester (weeks 12-16).

PLEASE CHECK UNIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES - STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE

FOR DOUBLE-CHECKING ALL SCHEDULED EXAMS FOR PROPER TIMES & DATES

NOTICE THAT THIS IS AN 8:00 A.M. EXAM - - I REALIZE THAT 8 A.M. IS EARLY AND MAY SEEM ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT DURING A TIME THAT IS HIGHLY STRESSFUL. I EMPATHIZE HAVING ATTENDED MANY EXAMS AS A STUDENT; HOWEVER, YOUR TIMELY ATTENDANCE IS NON-NEGOTIABLE. YOU MUST ARRIVE BY 8AM OR YOU WILL BE IN VIOLATION OF THE EXAM POLICY. PLEASE READ THIS POLICY HEREIN (SEE ABOVE) FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF LATE ARRIVALS.
