

**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
SYLLABUS (SPRING 2009): JUST 4006 - - COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

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**COURSE INFORMATION:**

**Class Meeting Days/Times:** Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30pm -4:45pm  
**Class Location:** Rivers 267  
**Instructor:** Dr. John Johnson Kerbs, Assistant Professor  
**Instructor's E-mail Address:** kerbsj@mail.ecu.edu  
**Office:** 244 Rivers Building  
**Office Phone:** 1-252-328-5546  
**Cell Phone:** 1-850-212-3319  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays from 1:00pm to 6:00pm or by appointment.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides students with a comprehensive and critical understanding of intervention methods within community service-delivery systems for juvenile and adult offenders. More specifically, this course covers everything from the daily operations of parole and probation to more contested philosophical and pragmatic issues that affect community corrections programs. Beyond probation and parole, various intermediate sanctions will be examined such as boot camps, community service, electronic tethers, intensive supervision, and the use of pharmacological interventions with offenders who are mentally ill or chemically dependent on alcohol and other mood-altering drugs.

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Given the array of multi-disciplinary materials examined within this course, students will be able to critique and describe:

- 1) Historical aspects of probation;
  - 2) Historical aspects of parole;
  - 3) Pretrial and pre-sentence processes;
  - 4) Judicial processes that affect community corrections clients and programs;
  - 5) Organizational considerations for community corrections programs;
  - 6) Supervision via community corrections (probation) officers;
  - 7) Parole decisions;
  - 8) The role of parole officers in post-release supervision;
  - 9) Revocation of probation and parole; and
  - 10) Community-corrections in an evidence-based era of social control.
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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.

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### **REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:**

Reading is required for each and every week of the semester as outlined in this syllabus. Readings not available in the textbook will be available online in the Blackboard website for this class (see the Course Documents tab for online readings). You are required to buy the following textbook:

Champion, D. J.(2008). *Probation, parole and community corrections in the United States (Sixth Edition)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, Prentice Hall.

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### **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 be administered on February 4<sup>th</sup> and so the examination will cover all readings/lectures ***including*** those due during Week #4.
  - 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.**
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### **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).

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### **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 3:30pm (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 Monday 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 may be asked to leave. **Students attending this class should disable cell phones, beepers, and text message devices during class time. Laptops may only be used in the first two rows of the classroom for taking notes and not to surf the net, check email, or otherwise work on other documents that might be on your computer. The only approved computer use is for the purpose of note taking. If you violate these rules, you will receive an unexcused absence for the day.**

**GRADE EVALUATION:**

| EXAMINATION               | MAXIMUM POINT VALUE |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Test #1                   | 25 Points           |
| Test #2                   | 25 Points           |
| Test #3                   | 25 Points           |
| Top 2 Quizzes             | 20 Points           |
| Attendance/Participation  | 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.*

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## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code as published in *East Carolina University's Undergraduate Bulletin and Course Catalogue for 2008-2009*. The academic honor system of East Carolina University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. More specifically, ECU's policy regarding "Honor Code" violations reads as follows:

*Academic Integrity is expected of every East Carolina University Student. . . Academically violating the Honor Code consists of the following: cheating, the giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work; plagiarism, copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and adopting those as one's original work; falsification, statement of untruth, either verbal or written, regarding any circumstances relating to academic work; and attempting any act which if completed would constitute an academic integrity violation as defined above. Procedures governing academic integrity violations are described in the "East Carolina University Student Handbook" and in the "Faculty Manual."*

**In practical terms, if you cheat on a test or quiz, you will get an "F" for this course and you will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs.** Please read *The East Carolina University Student Handbook* and the *Faculty Manual* for more details regarding: 1) what constitutes academic dishonesty; and 2) the rights and responsibilities of both students and faculty.

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## **AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) POLICY:**

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. You can reach ECU's Department of Disability Support Services by calling 252-737-1016, or visit their web site at the following address for additional information: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/dss/>

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## **WEEKLY READINGS AND TESTS**

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**Week #1 [January 12 & 14]: Topics - - Syllabus Review, Course Overview & Community Corrections in the CJ System**

Chapter 1: Criminal Justice System Components - -Locating Probation and Parole (27)

Chapter 3: An Overview of Community Corrections - - Types, Goals, and Functions (47)

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**Week #2 [19 (HOLIDAY) & 21]: Topics - - History of Probation**

Chapter 5: Probation and Probationers - - History, Philosophy, Goals, and Functions (41)

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**Week #3 [January 26 & 28]: Topics - - The Pretrial and Sentence Stages**

Chapter 4: Sentencing and the Pre-Sentence Investigation Report - - Background, Preparation, and Functions (50)

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**Week #4 [ February 2 & 4 (TEST #1)]: Topics - - Community Corrections and Programming**

Chapter 6: Programs for Probationers (57)

*The first test will be held on 2/4/2009 (Wednesday) and it will cover everything in Weeks 1, 2, 3, & 4.*

*This test will include true/false questions, multiple choice questions, fill-in-the-blanks, and essays.*

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**Week #5 [February 9 & 11 ]: Topics - - The Community Corrections Organization**

Chapter 10: Probation/Parole Organization and Operations - - Recruitment, Training, & Officer-Client Relations (53)

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**Week #6 [February 16 & 18]: Topics--Supervision & the Community Corrections Officer--Risk Assessments**

Chapter 11: Probation and Parole Professionals (45)

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**Week #7 [February 23 & 25]: Topics - - Theories of Offender Treatment and What Works Best**

Chapter 2: Theories of Offender Treatment (37)

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**Week #8 [March 2 & 4]: Topics - - Sex Offenders in the Community**

Chapter 12: Offender Supervision - - Types of Offenders and Special Supervisory Considerations (39)

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**Week #9 [March 16 & 18 (TEST #2)]: Evaluating Programs and the Principles of Risk, Need, & Responsivity**

Chapter 14: Evaluating Programs- - Balancing Service Delivery and Recidivism Considerations (27)

*The second test will be held on 3/18/2009 (Wednesday) & it will cover everything in Weeks 5, 7, 8, & 9.*

*This test will include true/false questions, multiple choice questions, fill-in-the-blanks, and essays.*

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**Week #10 [March 23 & 25 ]: Topics--History of Parole--Debate Week!--See Online Readings and Handouts**

Jones, M. (2004). Chapter 10: History of Parole. *Community Corrections*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press, Inc. (23)

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**Week #11 [March 30 & April 1]: Topics--Referral Sources for Probation and Parole Systems**

Chapter 7 - - Jails and Prisons (46)

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**Week #12 [April 6 & 8]: Topics - - Parole and Post-Release Supervision**

Chapter 8: Parole and Parolees (59)

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**Week #13 [April 13 & 15]: Topics - - The Revocation Stage**

Chapter 9: Early Release, Parole Programs, and Parole Revocation (70)

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**Week #14 [April 20 & 22]: Topics - - Juveniles in the Juvenile and Adult Correctional Systems**

Chapter 13: Juvenile Probation and Parole (79)

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**Week #15 [April 27 (Pizza for 60 & Review Session)] - - Mandatory Attendance**

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**Week #16 [May 6 (Wednesday)]: FINAL EXAMINATION FROM 2:00pm to 4:30pm**

*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 10-15).*

**PLEASE CHECK UNIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES - STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DOUBLE-CHECKING ALL SCHEDULED EXAMS FOR PROPER TIMES & DATES**