

## **Correctional Theory and Practice: CRMJ 3350**

**Syllabus, Fall 2018**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Office Hours: Mon. & Fri.. 9:00 –  
10:00 a.m., Wed. 1:30-2:30 p.m  
and by appointment

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Day/Time: M – 5:15 – 6:50 pm  
Room: NA/Distance  
Credit Hours: 3

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to both provide students with an overview of the U.S. correctional system as well as introduce the abundance of research that has been conducted in the field. Throughout this semester, we will explore the history, development and contemporary practices of the American correctional system. In addition, we will examine what the research tells us about the capacity of our correctional system to achieve its intended goals.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course students should possess the following:

- A basic knowledge of the theories of punishment which underlie the sanctioning process.
- An understanding of the various (and often conflicting) goals of corrections.
- A general understanding of the various components which comprise the correctional system including jails, probation, parole, intermediate sanctions, and prisons.
- An understanding of the unique and often difficult challenges correctional professionals face in carrying out sanctions imposed by the courts.
- The ability to comprehend and look critically at correctional research.
- The ability to identify many of the shortcomings of the U.S. correctional system and the ability to think creatively about alternative approaches to corrections such as restorative justice and treatment related services.

### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

Stohr, M., Walsh, A., & Hemmens, C. (2013). *Corrections: A Text/Reader* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed). Los

Angeles: Sage Press.

\* Additional readings will be made available on WyoCourses

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Grades for this course will be comprised in the following way:

- A. **Semester Exams** - There will be a total of three exams throughout the course (including the final) of the semester. The exams will be a combination of short answer, essay, with some multiple choice and true/false questions. All exams will be worth 100 points. The exams will be posted on WyoCourses and I will provide you with the possible short answer and essay questions prior to the exam. However, of those short answer and essay questions, I will select a smaller number of questions for the exam, excluding several questions. For instance, I may provide you with four essay questions to study, but for the exam, only two of those questions will featured, and you will be asked to answer only one. The exams will be available online, in WyoCourses, and you may take it any time during the week in which the exam is scheduled. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam.
  
- B. **Summary Papers** – Throughout the semester, students will be assigned two readings for which they are required to complete a summary paper. Each assigned reading and corresponding assignments related to the readings will be worth 50 points. More information about the summary papers requirements will be made available at a later time.
  
- C. **Class Participation/Group Discussion** – During the course of the semester, there will be 10 weeks where we will have group discussion through online discussion boards, and you are expected to participate in the course discussion boards. Typically, one or two starter questions will be posted to begin the discussion and then students can either respond to those questions or raise other issues based on the reading that they are interested in. Each module/week will have its own discussion board with a closing date. In order to receive a high participation grade, you need to post multiple times in each module's discussion board before the closing date. **Each week, and in each module's discussion board, you should post once yourself (original post), and post two responses to other's posts. When you post your own comment, you should reference some aspect of the reading and where appropriate, end the post with a question to invite comments from other students. Your original post should be a two to three paragraphs long, and your paragraphs should consists of at least three sentences. You will not be required to cite the textbook or utilize APA citation format for the discussion board. However, if you reference material outside the course, it must be attributed for through some type of cite or link to the source.**

Your participation in the discussion board will be graded by the following standards:

- all posts should have complete sentences, correct spelling and grammar, and employ a formal academic tone
- all posts should make specific reference to particular points in the course materials and/or other individual's posts
- excellent posts make connections across several sources of information (either different readings on the same topic, or connections between old material and new material)
- excellent posts respond to specific points in other students' posts in a meaningful way that moves the conversation forward
- excellent posts inspire many responses from other students
- excellent posts do not just relate facts, but take on a critical yet respectful tone with regard to readings, lectures or other posts. This means that you take a position, and provide a logical, reasoned defense of your position.

You are expected to participate with excellent posts in every module's discussion board. Each discussion board will be worth 10 points. The discussion board and questions will be ready by 8:00 a.m. on each Monday and can accessed through WyoCourses, and it will close Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

### **Grading Scale**

Exams	300 points
Discussion Boards	100 points
<u>Summary Papers</u>	<u>100 points</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 points</b>

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Percentage:</b>	<b>Class Points:</b>
A+	97-100%	485-500
A	90-96.99%	450-484
B+	87-89.99%	435-449
B	80-86.99%	400-434
C+	77-79.99%	385-399
C	70-76.99%	350-384
D	60-69.99%	300-349
F	less than 60%	000-299

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work opportunities will only be granted for excused absences. Excused absences include:

1. Participation in an organized school activity
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Illness (with doctor's written excuse)
4. Special circumstances that have been approved **in advance** by the instructor

**The instructor is the sole arbiter of what (if any) absences are excused. Documentation will be required. All make-up work must be completed during office hours within ONE WEEK of the original due date. It is the student's responsibility to schedule and complete the make-up work. The instructor reserves the right to change the format of all make-up exams, quizzes, and other assignments.**

**University and Doctor's Excuses:**

In order to be considered for an excused absence from an examination, a valid University excuse or doctor's excuse must be obtained. University excuses can be obtained from the Office of Student Life (Room 128 Knight Hall, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82070 - telephone: 307-766-3296) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office of Student Life (OSL) will provide the excuse, provided the student's absence meets the criteria for an authorized absence. For further information on obtaining an excused absence, contact the OSL or visit their website at: <http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/OSL/absences.htm>.

Doctors' excuses must be obtained from your attending physician and must state that you were unable to attend the class period that day. Doctor's appointments do not constitute an excused absence. Excuses need to be presented to the instructor by the class period following the excused absence to be accepted.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Academic dishonesty in all its forms will not be tolerated in this class. This includes cheating on tests, turning in someone else's work as your own, **plagiarism**, or assisting other students in these activities. Students are expected to do their own work and anyone caught cheating will automatically receive a failing grade on the assignment and may receive a failing grade in the class depending on the severity of the transgression. Each student is encouraged to read University Regulation 802 for further information concerning academic dishonesty and the potential consequences. [http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/\\_files/docs/UW-Reg-6-802.pdf](http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/UW-Reg-6-802.pdf)

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance is important to the successful completion of this course. Students are expected to have completed assigned readings prior to class and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Students are also expected to check WyoCourses on a

regular basis for information pertaining to this course.

### **TITLE IX:**

The faculty and staff of the University of Wyoming actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination. Under Title IX, the University has a responsibility to take immediate and effective steps to respond to sexual violence and/or sexual harassment. Title IX mandatory reporters are required to notify Equal Opportunity Report and Response of any allegation of sexual misconduct. Mandatory reporters at the University include every administrative officer, dean, director, department head, supervisor, and all instructional personnel including your instructor. More information, including access to confidential resources, can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit/policies/index.html>.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

It is University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 128 Knight Hall, 766-3656, <http://www.uwyo.edu/udss/> and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

## COURSE OUTLINE

- August 27-31: Introduction/Review Syllabus, Section I - The Philosophical and Ideological Underpinnings of Corrections.
- Sept. 4-7: Section II – A History of Corrections.
- Sept. 10-14: Section III – Jails and the Inmate Experience.
- Sept. 17-21: Section IV – Sentencing: The Application of Punishment.
- Sept. 24-28: Section IV – Sentencing: The Application of Punishment & Guest speaker. Summary Paper 1 topic: *Life Without Parole, America's Other Death Penalty. Notes on Life Under Sentence of Death by Incarceration.* Will be posted on Wyocourses.
- Exam #1**
- Oct. 1-5: Section V – Probation and Community Corrections.
- Oct. 8-12: Section VI – Prisons and the Inmate Experience.
- Oct. 15-19: Section VII – Parole and Prisoner Reentry & Guest Speaker.
- Oct. 22-26: Section VIII – The Corrections Experience for Staff.
- Exam #2**
- Oct. 29- Nov. 2: Section IX - Legal Issues in Corrections.
- Nov. 5-9: Section X - Correctional Programming and Treatment.
- Nov. 12-16: Section XI - Women and Corrections. Summary Paper 2 topic: *Prison Guards and Inmates of Opposite Genders: Equal Employment Opportunity Versus Right to Privacy.* Will be posted on Wyocourses.
- Nov. 19-20: Section XII - Minorities and Corrections.
- Nov. 26-30: Section XIII - Juveniles and Corrections.
- Dec. 3-7: Section XIV - Corrections in the 21st Century.
- December 10: Catch-up and review for **Final Exam**

**December 12: FINAL EXAM**

**\*Note: This is a tentative class schedule which may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances. The instructor will notify students at least one week in advance of any changes to the test schedule.**