

Correctional Theory and Practice: CRMJ 3350-80

Syllabus, Spring 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dan Fetsco
Telephone: (307) 766-2988 CJ Mainline
Email: dfetsco@uwo.edu
Office: 312 Arts & Sciences
Office Hours: Mon. 9:30 – 11:30 am
Tues. 9:30 – 10:30 am and by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Day/Time: Mon. 5:00 – 6:50 pm
Room: Online/Distance
Credit Hours: 3

GA INFORMATION

Name: Kyle Mattinson
Office: 313 Arts & Sciences
Office Hours: TBA
Email: tmattin1@uwo.edu

COURSE PREREQUISITES

CRMJ 1000, CRMJ 2210, CRMJ/SOC 2400, CRMJ 2685

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. (2019). *Corrections: A Text/Reader* (3rd 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 40 points. More information about the summary paper requirements will be made available at a later time.
- C. **Class Participation/Group Discussion** – During the course of the semester, there will be five 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. **For each week where a discussion board is scheduled, you should post once yourself (original post), and post two responses to other's posts for both questions, if there are two assigned. 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 two to three paragraphs long, and your paragraphs should consist 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. As a reminder, you must post both an original post and two response posts for each question to receive full points.

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 scheduled 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 Tuesday and can accessed through WyoCourses, and they will close Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

Grading Scale

Exams	300 points
In-class Quizzes/Exercises	50 points
Article Discussion and Summary Papers	80 points
Total	430 points

Grade:	Percentage:	Class Points:
A	90-100%	387-430
B	80-89.99%	344-386
C	70-79.99%	301-343
D	60-69.99%	258-300
F	less than 60%	000-257

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

ATTENDANCE & CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

I will be recording each class and lecture, and will post the video as an announcement in the course shell the following morning. As a result, I do not require attendance at the scheduled class time. This is largely due to the fact that a certain percentage of distance students are working full-time or have other conflicts that make regular class attendance impractical. However, in order to be successful in the class, it is strongly recommended that you watch the videos if you are unable to participate in class at the scheduled time. Students are also expected to check WyoCourses on a regular basis for information pertaining to this course. During live course lectures, you are encouraged to ask questions at any point time. Please keep your audio muted if you have reason to believe that there may be unwanted noise or disturbances coming from your end. It can be very distracting to hear a domestic conversation going on in the background while I am trying to speak, so

please beware of whether your audio is muted or not. Lastly, please be respectful of the opinions of others during class discussions. Failure to abide by these rules can result in dismissal from the class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

It is University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a disability, including but not limited to 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, 766-3073 <http://www.uwyo.edu/udss/> and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS:

The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to class, including age, country of origin, culture, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE:

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>

COURSE OUTLINE

- January 27: Introduction/Review Syllabus. Section I - The Philosophical and Ideological Underpinnings of Corrections (pp. 1-15). How to Read a Research Article (pp. 16-18).
- February 3: Section II – Correctional History: Ancient Times to Colonial Jails (pp. 55-68).
Section III – Correctional History: The 17th to 20th Centuries (pp. 77-91).
- February 10: Section IV – Ethics and Corrections (pp. 107-116).
- February 17: Section V – Sentencing: The Application of Punishment (pp. 143-162).
Exam #1 – will open on the 18th and close on the 25th of February.
- February 24: Section VI – Jails and Detention Centers (pp. 185-201).
- March 2: Section VII – Community Corrections: Probation and Intermediary Sanctions (pp. 223-239).

- March 9: Section VIII – Prisons and the Correctional Client (pp. 269-289).
- March 16-20: **Spring Break**
- March 23: Section IX – The Corrections Experience for Staff (pp. 313-331).
- March 30: Section X – Community Corrections: Parole and Prisoner Reentry (pp. 355-373).
- Exam #2 – will open on the 31st of March and close April 7th.**
- April 6: Section XI – Women and Corrections (pp. 401-416). Section XII – Minorities and Corrections (pp. 441-454).
- April 13: Section XIII – Juveniles and Corrections (pp. 481-496).
- April 20: Section XIV – Legal Issues in Corrections (pp. 519-533).
- April 27: Section XV – Correctional Programming and Treatment (pp. 557-573).
- May 4: Section XVI – The Death Penalty (pp. 597- 615). Review for final, catch-up.
- May 11-15: FINAL EXAM – you will have all of finals week to take the exam, including at the least the weekend prior.**

***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.**