

FALL 2005  
JS 104, Section 3  
Mondays 5:30 – 8:15  
MH 523

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(Please schedule)

## **JS 104 CORRECTIONS AND SOCIETY**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will serve to provide students with a broad introduction to the American correctional system. This will include a brief review of the history and development of corrections in America, the various facets of corrections and its interdependency with other justice system components and processes, such as law enforcement and the judicial process. A particular focus will be on critical perspectives and emerging issues in both adult and juvenile “corrections”. Students will be asked to intellectually immerse themselves into the current reform debate regarding juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Course topics will focus equally on the impact of offender and systemic influences on correctional practices.

Students should exit the course with an understanding of:

- the philosophical underpinnings of correctional practices historically and currently;
- the continuum of sanctions and interventions in corrections, including Detention practices, Jail sentences, Probation, community based treatment and rehabilitative efforts, and Prison;
- key social justice issues, critical perspectives and reform efforts in the field, such as mental health issues, special populations in corrections, and the overrepresentation of minorities;
- the importance and role of research in policy and practice and emerging models of correctional practice.

### **REQUIRED READING**

Clear, Todd, George Cole and Michael D. Reisig (2005) American Corrections, Seventh Edition. CA: Thompson and Wadsworth.

The text is available at the Spartan Bookstore.

### **OTHER READING, ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS AND GRADING**

Students will be asked to search for RECENT (Last two years) news media coverage regarding local and state reform efforts. Each student will be required to collect three

articles that focus on a particular subject. And will submit a short analysis. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

Students will also be required to find, read, summarize and critique two academic journal articles that focus on at least one of three areas: critical issues and problems relevant to corrections; evaluations or studies of Correctional programs or practices; requests for grant proposals relevant to corrections and related background information. Students will hand in a 2-4 page summary and analysis of each article (couple spaced 12 font) analysis of the articles. Detailed instructions on the assignment will be given in class.

There will be a mid-term examination and a final exam. The exams will contain multiple choice and true and false questions based on the text. There will also be essay questions based on class lecture and discussion topics. Students should bring sharp pencils, a pen and a blue book to each exam.

A final 5-7 page paper will be due by November 21. The final paper will compare and contrast three sources pertaining to a topical area in corrections – News, academic journal piece and a film. Students will be provided detailed instructions in class. This assignment is intended to reveal the student’s critical thought and assimilation of topics relevant to corrections and society.

#### **Reading, Assignment and Exam Schedule:**

August 29 <sup>th</sup> -----	First Day of Class, Introductions and Review of Course
September 12 -----	Review of Chapters 1-4
September 26 -----	Review of Chapters 5-6
October 3-----	Review of Chapters 7-8
	Guest Speaker on Due Process and the Courts
October 10 <sup>th</sup> -----	Review of Chapters 9-10
October 17 <sup>th</sup> -----	Review of Chapters 11
	Review for Exam
October 24 <sup>th</sup> -----	Mid Term
October 31 <sup>st</sup> -----	Debrief of Exam
	Review of Chapters 12-14
November 7 <sup>th</sup> -----	Review of Chapters 15-17 / Journal Articles Due
November 14 <sup>th</sup> -----	Review of Chapters 18-20
November 21 <sup>st</sup> -----	Review of Chapters 21-22 / Presentations
November 28 <sup>th</sup> -----	Review of Final / Presentations

Grades will be based on two exams worth a total of 65 percent of the grade, assigned work 20 percent; attendance and class participation 15 percent.

Please do not go through this course confused. If anything is unclear, or if you need more information, please ask in class or contact me,