

CRM 697
Contemporary Issues in Corrections:
Recidivism and Reentry
Spring 2014
Course Syllabus

Professor: Brett Garland

Office:

Phone:

Email:

Office Hrs: I will be in my office regularly throughout the week and should not be difficult to contact. You should always feel free to email me with any questions or concerns. My official hours are 10-12 on Tuesday and Thursday and 4-5 on Thursday only. If desired, you are welcome to set up an appointment to call me or meet with me in person. We can also set up Skype or Google Hangout sessions to converse about the class.

Course Description:

This course addresses two critical questions facing contemporary correctional agencies, a) What approaches are most effective in reducing the recidivism of offenders under correctional supervision? and b) How can we most effectively address the problems posed from the large numbers of people being released from prisons? In this course we will focus more on community corrections than prisons and jails as community-based efforts are more successful. The course takes an active learning approach with an emphasis on applying knowledge to real life situations.

Course Goals for Students:

Goal 1: Understand the application of science and evidence-based practice to corrections.

Goal 2: Identify and understand the theoretical roots and core principles and components of effective correctional policies and practices.

Goal 3: Understand key barriers and challenges facing the implementation and sustainability of evidence-based (research-informed) policies and practices.

Goal 4: Understand the challenges related to modern prisoner reentry and the strengths and limitations of reentry initiatives.

Goal 5: Utilize course material and critical thinking skills to address contemporary correctional challenges.

Weekly Reflection Questions

Students will receive questions to guide their reading and reflection of each week's assigned material. These questions will be active-learning based and challenge the student to reflect deeply and critically about the content and its implications for criminal justice policy and practice. Some of the questions pose scenarios for students to address.

We will use video and written applications in Blackboard (BB) and Discussion Board (DB) for class discussions of the reflection questions. Guidelines and directions will be provided for video and typed responses on DB. Students must have each week's material read by the corresponding Tuesday. (I will be working in a Tuesday through Friday model this semester, but I will be available most Mondays for consultation.) Reading the material by Tuesday is important so that discussion over reflection questions can begin immediately each respective week.

Exams

Two short answer examinations will be given during the semester. Exams will be taken online and require students to recognize key concepts from the reading material and provide written justifications for answers. Exams can be taken anytime on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the corresponding exam week. In addition to reflection questions, students will receive study questions relevant to the exams.

Reflection Paper

A position paper is required which discusses your views on addressing problems related to recidivism and reentry. The paper must be 7-10 pages in length and will require 10-15 references.

Schedule of Topics and Readings*

- WK 1: (1/13-1/17) Review syllabus, Black Board Layout, and Course Tools**
- WK 2: (1/21-1/24) Historical and Foundational Issues**
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 1.
Wodahl and Garland, "Evolution of Community Corrections."
- WK 3: (1/27-1/31) Risk and Needs**
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 2.
Gottfredson and Moriarity, "Statistical Risk Assessment."
Lowencamp and Latessa, "Increasing effectiveness through the risk principle."
- WK 4: (2/3-2/7) Theory into Practice**
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 3.
Van Voorhis, "Social Learning Models."
Lester and Van Voorhis, "Cognitive Therapies." pp. 167-181
- WK 5: (2/10-2/14) Changing Behavior, Dealing with Offenders, and What Does Not Work**
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 4.
NIC, "Effective Clinical Practices in Criminal Justice, pp. 1-4, 9-22.
Pew Center on the States, "When Offenders Break Rules."
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 5.

- WK 6: (2/18-2/21) Responsivity (The Last of the RNR Trilogy)**
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 6.
Clark, “Motivational Interviewing...Readiness to change.”
Clark, Walters, Gingerich, and Meltzer, “Motivational Interviewing... Tipping the Balance toward Change.”
Andrews, “Enhancing Adherence to RNR.”
- WK 7: (2/24-2/28) Drugs, Problem Courts, and Women**
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 7.
Marlowe, “Evidence-Based Practices for Drug Offenders.”
Portillo, Rudes, Viglione, and Nelson, “Role of Judges in Problem-solving Courts.
Taxman, Perdoni, and Caudy. “Plight of Providing Substance Abuse Treatment.”
- WK 8: (3/3-3/7) Review and Midterm Exam**
- WK 9: (3/10-3/14) Spring Break**
- WK 10: (3/17-3/21) Sex Offenders**
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 8.
Center for Sex Offender Management, “Community Supervision of Sex Offenders.”
Wright, “Sex Offender Registration and Notification.”
Tewskbury, Collateral Consequences of Sex Offender Registration.”
- WK 11: (3/24-3/28) Prisons and Female Recidivism**
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 10.
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 9.
- WK 12: (3/31-4/4) Introduction to Prisoner Reentry**
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 11.
Urban Institute, “Understanding the Challenges of Reentry.”
Wodahl, “Challenges to Rural Reentry.”

- WK 13: (4/7-4/11) What Appears to Work in Prisoner Reentry**
Taxman, Young, Byrne, Holsinger, and Anspach. “From Prison Safety to Public Safety.”
Solomon, Kachnowski, and Bhati, “Does Parole Work?”
Seiter and Kadela, “What Works and Does Not in Prisoner Reentry.”
Duwe, “Evaluating MCORP.”
- WK 14: (4/14-4/16) Errors in Reducing Recidivism**
Wilson and Davis, “Good Intentions Meet Hard Realities.”
Hamilton, “Adapting to Bad News.”
Lattimore, Steffey, and Visher, “Prisoner Reentry in the First Decade of the Twentieth Century.”
Garland and Wodahl, “Coming to a Crossroads on Reentry.”
- WK 15: (4/21-4/25) Community and Context**
Garland, Wodahl, and Schuhmann, “Public Attitudes toward Prisoner Reentry.”
Mears, Wang, Hay, and Bales, “Social Ecology and Reentry.”
Wright, Pratt, Lowencamp, and Latessa, “Ecological Context and Rehabilitation.”
- WK 16: (4/28-5/2) Implementation**
Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle, Chapter 12.
Rhine, Mawhorr, and Parks, “Implementation and Effective Programs.”
Schlager, “Organizational Politics and Risk Assessment.”
- WK 17: (5/5-5/8) Review and Second Exam (Not Comprehensive)**
- WK 18: (5/12-16) Paper Due on Tuesday, May 13**

Course Grade:

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

<u>Evaluation Component</u>	<u>Proportion of Final Grade</u>
DB Reflections	40%
Exams	40%
Paper	20%

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	69 or below

Course Jurisdiction:

The course instructor has original jurisdiction over this class and may deny a student who is unduly disruptive the right to participate in this class. A disruption is defined here as anything that distracts the instructor or other students from the online learning experience. Class disruptions can involve (but are not limited to) making rude, insensitive, or threatening comments or using unprofessional language on discussion board. The course instructor may have a student administratively withdrawn from a course upon showing of good cause and with the concurrence of the department head. The appeals process in case of such administrative withdrawal shall be as stated in the academic regulations under “Grade Re-evaluation Based on Performance.”

Academic Dishonesty:

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the university’s student honor code, *Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures*, available at <http://www.missouristate.edu/provost/22102.htm> and also available at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy. Note that I will submit an “XF” grade for any act of academic dishonesty.

Dropping a Class:

It is your responsibility to understand the University’s procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the [Office of the Registrar](#) at 836-5520.

Nondiscrimination Policy:

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office of Equity and Diversity, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, (417) 836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor’s Department Head.

Disability Accommodation:

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Director of Disability Services, Plaster Student Union, Suite 405, (417) 836-4192 or (417) 836-6792 (TTY), <http://www.missouristate.edu/disability>. Students are required to provide documentation

of disability to Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations. Disability Services refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, (417) 836-4787.

For additional information students should contact the [Office of Disability Services](#), 836-4192 (PSU 405), or Larry Combs, Interim Assistant Director of [Public Safety and Transportation](#) at 836-6576.

For further information on Missouri State University's Emergency Response Plan, please refer to the following web site: <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>