

Soc 329: Corrections
University of La Verne
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Fall 2015 Online

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Welcome to the Course

*Welcome to "Corrections" online course from the University of La Verne!
I hope that you enjoy the course and I will do everything that I can to make it enjoyable.*

Good news and bad news:

First the good news - you don't have to maneuver through traffic after your busy days to come to class and then try to stay awake through long lectures.

Now the bad news - this is not the "easy way" to do university classes, although it will likely be more convenient (see good news above). The point is that an online class requires more work, and especially more independent work, from students because there are no classroom lectures.

You should be prepared to spend between six and ten hours a week on this course since reading/working on your own along with weekly writing assignments replace lectures. You should start early each week on the assignments and keep up with the schedule.

I have tried to organize the course such that the "good news" outweighs the "bad news."

Welcome to the course!

Required Texts:

Clear, R.T., Cole, F.G., & Reisig, D.M. (2016). American corrections (11th ed). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Austin, J., & Irwin, J. (2012). It's about time: America's imprisonment binge (4th ed). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Please make sure you keep you with readings from both our class texts and any assigned websites, see Course Assignments for info on additional readings/websites

Course Description/Objectives

"The United States affords a glaring example of the limited impact that criminal justice responses may have on crime if locking up those who violate the law contributed to safer societies, then the United States should be the safest country in the world."

Course Description/Objectives CONT

Excerpt from a 1993 Canadian government report on crime prevention.

Since 1993 US prison populations have tripled.

Like other social institutions, the use of prisons has emerged and changed at particular times and in particular sets of circumstances. Probably the best known work on prisons is French social theorist Michel Foucault's book *Discipline and Punish*, which describes the change in France from public torture/executions to imprisonment which occurred during the period of French industrialization. Foucault also points out the similarities in changes in several other institutions at the time, like schools, factories, mental institutions, and so on. In this class, we will look at the circumstances that led to the emergence and changes in prisons in the United States over its history. There will be a special focus on the recent "imprisonment binge" in the US and its causes and consequences.

We will also examine how technological development historically generates large "surplus populations" and we will look at some ways that societies have dealt with this problem (from torture/executions to massive out-migration to prisons, mental institutions, and the welfare state, etc.). We will look closely at the social problems generated by these approaches, especially the dilemmas posed by prisons. We will also examine the origins and dimensions of the imprisonment binge in the US that began in the 1980's and continues to grow. In this part of the course we will look at the massive growth of prison populations, what this has done to prisons and prisoners, and some of the major implications of these policies. We will conclude by looking at the current debates over the US prison situation and consider whether there is a way out of the growing disaster posed by current policies and practices.

** Use of internet material will be a required part of the course

** Information from assigned internet sites will be covered on exams

Grading and Exams

Discussion Boards (10@20 points each)	200pts
Current Events/Discussion Board (5@20 points each)	100 pts
(For Discussion Questions Chapter 1-22, end of each chapter) Clear, Cole Resig Text (odd number questions only)	220pts
Mid Term	100 pts
Final Exam	100 pts
Class Project:	50pts
Total Points	770 pts

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Scale</u>	89-88	=	B+	79-78	=	C+	69-68	=	D+
100-94	= A	87-84	=	B	77-74	=	C	67-64	=	D
93-90	= A-	83-80	=	B-	73-70	=	C-	63-60	=	D-
59	= F									

***Note: There is total of 770 points possible for this class. In order to calculate your grade, add up the total points you receive and divide that by 770.**

Exams

A mid term and a final exam are required for the course.

The dates of the exams will be announced later.

Exams will be on-line via Blackboard).

Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, etc. and short answer items. A course announcement as well as an email will be sent out when the midterm and final dates will be scheduled.

Homework:

You will completed the chapter discussion questions at the end of each chapter in America Corrections (Clear, Cole & Reisig Text). You only have to do the odd numbered questions for American Corrections for the discussion end of chapter questions. Late work will receive less than full credit or not be accepted at all. For due date please see Course Assignment link for our class course schedule.

Please note you will upload your Homework as an attachment via the Homework link on the Course Menu. The first round and the second round of review questions should be uploaded as one document, not multiple documents.

Class Project

Information on this task can be found under Course Assignments in Blackboard. The Power-Point will be submitted on to the db area as there is a discussion component part of this assignment that is required

Discussion Boards

Each week of the course you will be required to respond to the discussion board question, by Thursday midnight PST, you will also need to post at least 2 responses to your fellow classmates by Sunday at 12 midnight PST. The use of sources and Proper APA format should be used for your main discussion board responses. Main Discussion boards posts are not accepted for credit after the db closes out on Sunday, if they are turned in after Thurs but by Sunday they will still count but will be marked down for being late.

Discussion board main post should be about 400-600 words.

Current Events

Current Events: About Every 2 weeks you will post on the discussion board (see discussion board area) in the correlating current event area in regards to a current event of your choice that has to do with a topic in Criminal Justice.. Please note: you will be discussing the current event, not just merely reposting the information. Like your regular discussion boards this is also due, by Thursday midnight PST, you will also need to post at least 2 responses to your fellow classmates by Sunday at 12 midnight PST in regards to the current event. Please provide a link to the current event of your choice along with your work. Please See Assignments section of the course for a more detailed explanation. The Main current Event posts are not accepted for credit after the current event area closes out on Sunday, if they are turned in after Thurs but by Sunday they will still count but will be marked down for being late.

Current Event main post should be about 400-600 words, excluding the actual current event.

Participation/Attendance

In order to make this class interesting and worthwhile it is essential that you add to it. A good part of your grade depends on participation. Offering your opinion while being respectful to others, answering questions, posting to the discussion board and adding to the overall learning environment are what I look at. Don't be left out, this is your education, so participate!

Participation in course discussions is a large part of your weekly grade. Discussion boards and discussion board responses must be completed the week they are due. Late discussion board posts and late responses to fellow classmates are not accepted for credit. Please make sure you are actively participating in weekly course discussions. Failure to participate in the class can lead to a failing grade in the course.

Academic Honesty

It is expected that you will maintain academic integrity at all times. This means doing your own work on discussion boards, exams, and class projects. Proper credit must be given to sources (which are required on all discussion boards and class projects) through the use of APA/ASA format in written work (avoiding plagiarism). Is it never okay to copy and paste information off a website or a source and pass it off as your own work. Sources are meant to bolster your views,

they are not meant to be your views. Plagiarism and cheating will result automatically in a grade of F in the course. Please refer to the university catalog on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity.

Please note that sources like Wikipedia are not academic sources as much of the information on such sites is either incorrect or plagiarized from other sources are not accepted source information for this course.

ULV Email

Please make sure to use or check your ULV email accounts this is where I will be sending all course information and correspondence too.

Classroom Etiquette

Be respectful to one another in the discussion boards.

Incompletes . I do not allow students to take an "Incomplete" for this course. If you do not believe you will be able to finish the course, you should withdraw early to get any refund of your tuition that you are due.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the Syllabus at any time