

Criminology/Sociology 4790-600
The Correctional Process: A Sociological Analysis

Summer 2019
Credit Hours: 3
Online

Instructor: Dr. Stevens

Email: jstevens3@eiu.edu

Office Location: Blair 3148

Phone: 217-581-3123 (Sociology Department Office)

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Information: If you need to reach me, emailing me through D2L is the best way. I am currently off-campus and will rarely be in the office. However, I am available electronically!

Required Text:

Siegel, Larry J. and Clemens Bartollas. 2014. *Corrections Today* 3rd ed. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. (Primary textbook.)

ISBN: 978-1-305-26108-2

Alexander, Michelle. 2012. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press.

ISBN: 978-1-59558-643-8

*The second book will not have assigned readings, but can be used as a resource for assignments and to develop ideas for the final project.

Course Description:

This course provides an understanding of the entire field of correctional systems in terms of its official objectives, its actual effects and effectiveness, including special focus on experimental programs.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the function of a corrections system as it relates to other social structures.
- Recognize social forces that affect the definition and operation of corrections.
- Recognize major current and historical correctional models and major issues in sentencing.
- Describe, analyze/apply sociological and criminological theory and research in developing various societal responses to crime.

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to complete all assignments and be prepared for discussions and assignments. Respect for the instructor and other classmates should be demonstrated at all times. Failure to be respectful, particularly in discussion boards, could result in a loss of points. Be professional at all times. Keep in mind that because all communication is done online in this

class, it can be difficult to interpret your tone. Be mindful of that when writing discussion posts/responses and emails.

This course is set up in seven units, a “Getting Started” unit and six weekly units. The “Getting Started” unit must be completed before moving on to the Week 1 unit. Each of the weekly units begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. Central Time and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. Keep that in mind when completing your weekly timeline. The course ends on a Friday, so the Week 6 unit will run from Monday at 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Friday. You are expected to complete each unit’s work within that week. If you need to work ahead due to scheduling conflicts, that is fine, however, discussions must be completed within their assigned unit week to receive credit. Vacations or lack of access to the Internet, etc. will not be considered valid reasons for submitting late work.

Because this is an online class, you are expected to have regular access to the Internet. You will be required to complete weekly assignments and log on multiple times per week. Make sure that you have access to the Internet in order to do that. You can check your browser’s capabilities for D2L here: <https://online.eiu.edu/d2l/systemCheck> Historically, I have found that D2L works best on a Windows-based desktop or laptop. **You may not be able to access all features on a phone, tablet, or Mac computer.** If you have concerns about the technology, please contact EIU’s IT Help Desk at 217-581-4537 or support@eiu.edu. Technical issues will not be considered an excused reason for submitting assignments late. I am unable to troubleshoot problems on your computers and/or browsers. EIU Support is the best resource for those issues.

This is a six week course that is covering a semester’s worth of material. This means that you will be required to spend a lot of time reading, writing, and preparing for your assignments. (In a normal sixteen week course, you could meet the requirements by spending about 7.5 hours per week on work for the class. We still have the same requirements for a summer class, but they’re much more condensed. That equates to about 20 hours per week per course for a six-week summer course.) Keep this in mind and do not wait until the last minute to complete your assignments. You will be most successful in the class if you log in every day and work on your assignments and reading each day. Please note that the quizzes and many of the dropboxes are set to close at the time of their deadline. This means you will be unable to submit late work. Plan ahead. Be prepared to work hard over the next six weeks.

Course Communication:

Email through D2L is the best method for reaching me. If an emergency arises and you do not have access to email, please call the Sociology and Anthropology office and leave a message. If I need to contact you regarding the course, I will use your EIU email through D2L. Please make sure to check that account regularly. I strive to answer all emails within 24 hours during the business week (M-F). If you have a question about an assignment, I strongly encourage you to email me at least 24 hours in advance during the week. I encourage you to email me about any assignment questions by Friday at 4:30 p.m. for assignments that are due on Sundays.

Grade Postings/Concerns:

All grades will be posted on D2L. If a student has a concern about a grade or feels that there is a discrepancy between the posted grade and the grade awarded, the instructor must be contacted

via email within one week of when the grade was posted. Grade concerns will not be considered after one week has passed. It is your responsibility to follow the progress of your own grades. Please do not ask me to calculate your grade. Final grades are based on weighted grading. If you are unfamiliar with weighted grades, you can Google “Weighted Grade Calculator” for resources that will help you calculate your final grade.

Late Work:

Due to the nature of the course and the short time frame, late work will not be accepted for any reason. I strongly encourage you to check each week’s assignments at the beginning of the week so that you can set up a timeline for completion. Again, do not wait until Sunday evening to try to complete your work. As stated earlier, if you need to work ahead, that is fine (except for discussions, which must be completed during their assigned week). Vacations, work schedules, lack of Internet access, technology issues, etc. will not be considered excused reasons to submit late work. Stay on top of your assignments and do not wait until the last minute. Please keep in mind that all due dates are based on Central Time. If there is a medical or legal emergency that prevents you from completing your work, please provide documentation of your emergency within one business day. Extensions will be extremely rare and will only be granted in the event that there is a prolonged emergency that prevents a student from completing his/her work. Extensions are given at the instructor’s discretion.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty in any form (plagiarism, cheating, lying, stealing, etc.) will **NOT** be tolerated in this course. Students who turn in the work of other students either past or present will be in violation of this policy. The regulations for academic conduct set forth in the Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced. If you are found to be violating these expectations, you could fail the assignment, fail the course, and/or be reported to the Office of Student Standards. All assignments will be submitted through TurnItIn to check for plagiarism. Not properly citing your work is a form of plagiarism and will be treated as such.

Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

The Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Assignment Submission:

All written assignments must be submitted in Microsoft Word documents via D2L. Microsoft Word is the only acceptable format for submitting assignments (not Microsoft Works, Pages, or PDFs). If assignments are not submitted in Microsoft Word, they will be considered late. Do

not wait until the last minute to submit assignments as this is when problems are most likely to occur. Back up your work and have a “Plan B” if your computer malfunctions.

Course Requirements:

Grades will be assigned based on the following requirements.

Weekly Discussions

Each week, students will be required to respond to a discussion board prompt. In order to receive full credit for the discussion board, make sure that you:

- Post a substantive response to the weekly discussion question by Wednesday night at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. Substantive means that you should fully answer all parts on the question based on the weekly lesson. Demonstrate that you have read and understand the material. Your sources should be cited (this will likely primarily be the textbook). The textbook needs to be cited any time you use information from it (either paraphrased or quoted).
- Respond to at least two classmates’ posts by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. Again, your comments should be substantive and go beyond saying, “I agree” or “good point.” I expect full sentences and careful proofreading.

My expectation is that all posts and responses will be 1-2 paragraphs long at minimum and will include support from the textbook. Any resources (including the textbook) should be properly cited.

You will not receive credit for posts/responses that occur before or after the unit week. (In other words, Week 1 discussion posts must occur during Week 1.) Discussion boards are set up so that you must post first before seeing other students' responses to the question.

All assignments are expected to be written in complete sentences, appropriately cited, and free of errors. Proofread carefully!

Weekly Quizzes

Each chapter will have an associated quiz in the weekly folder. For most weeks, this will include two different chapters (each will have its own quiz). The quizzes will be timed and cover the weekly reading assignments. I strongly urge you to take the quizzes on a PC with a reliable Internet connection.

The questions come from a pool, which means that not everyone will have the same questions. All questions are of equal difficulty. In order to take the quizzes, you will be required to download the Respondus Lockdown Browser (See: <https://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=134612535>). This quick-start guide can also help: <http://www.respondus.com/downloads/RLDB-Quick-Start-Guide-D2L-Student.pdf>

Two Reaction Papers

Throughout the course, you will be required to write two response papers on specific weekly topics. These papers should be 750-1000 words and address a critical thinking question that is posed for the week. Your response should incorporate the information that you have been assigned to read and be thoughtful and well-supported. I strongly encourage you to use the textbook and outside, credible resources to support your points. You can choose which two weeks you would like to submit reactions. The papers will be due on D2L on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central on the given assignment week. Weeks 1-5 contain this assignment. There is not a reaction paper in Week 6, so plan accordingly. (I'd suggest working on these sooner rather than later, as you have a research project due in Week 6.)

Since you can choose which two weeks you would like to react, these papers will not be accepted late for any reason. (This means that if you wait until the last two eligible weeks, you are taking a chance!) The papers should follow APA or ASA style and include appropriate citations. They must be submitted in a Word document via D2L to be considered. The first two submitted papers will be counted for a grade. No further submissions will count toward your grade. Eligible weeks and questions for this assignment are contained in each unit folder. Some weeks allow you to choose from multiple questions. You should choose one option for the week. Only one submission per week will count, so you may not answer two questions from the same week for credit. In other words, each reaction paper must come from a different week.

This reactions papers will be graded using the following rubric:

Quality of content/argument	Connection to the text/weekly topic/Support from text or other sources	Writing Mechanics
40%	40%	20%

Research Project

This project will allow you to exhibit your mastery of the information learned in the class and explore a topic of interest in more depth. While you can build on work that you have already completed in the class, these assignments should contain original content (i.e. no copy and pastes of earlier papers/discussion board posts/etc.). This paper should bring new information to light and not be a summary or repetitive discussion of what we've learned/discussed in class.

Complete a traditional research paper on a topic related to corrections in the United States using a sociological perspective. A sociological perspective means approaching this study using theories and frameworks that sociologists use. Think back to your training in Intro to Soc or Intro to Crim and draw from those theories. Topics could include a specific topic related to corrections, a controversial issue in corrections, historical changes in corrections, a court case that has affected corrections, something specific to corrections in Illinois, etc. (I will not provide

topics for you. Read the text and make note of those topics that interest you and you'd like to know more about. This is the best place to start in developing a topic.) The paper should be 1,500 – 2,000 words (approximately 6-8 pages) with 1 inch margins all the way around, written in Times New Roman 12 point font. Again, no information from previous assignments in this class or others should be cut and pasted into this paper. All work needs to be original.

*Keep in mind that the focus of this class is adult corrections and not juvenile corrections (EIU has another class that addresses that topic if you have interest in that area). Please avoid topics related to juvenile corrections. Your topic should be a contemporary issue (within the last 5-10 years) and be focused on the United States corrections system.

All papers will be graded on the following:

- Quality of information and discussion;
- Originality of information and discussion;
- Relationship to the class;
- Effective use of at least five scholarly resources from outside that class, which are correctly cited in-text and included in a reference page using APA or ASA citation;
- Grammar, writing mechanics, citation, and overall quality of work.

Important dates:

- **Week 3:** Upload to D2L a paragraph explaining your proposed topic for the paper, how it relates to corrections, and what you see as being your unique contribution to the class.
- **Week 4:** Upload an annotated bibliography of five scholarly sources that you will use in your paper to D2L. This will be worth 5% of your final project grade.
- **Week 5:** Complete the final project worksheet which outlines the main ideas of your paper. This will be worth 5% of your final project grade.
- **Week 6 – Research Project Due on Friday @ 11:59 p.m. Central Time.**

Your research project total grade will be based on the following:

Quality of information and discussion.	Originality of information and discussion/Relationship to the course	Use of five scholarly sources cited appropriately.	Writing mechanics, Ability to follow instructions.	Annotated bibliography	Full-sentence outline
30%	25%	25%	10%	5%	5%

Extra Credit

Throughout the course, extra credit opportunities may arise, but is not guaranteed. *Extra credit cannot be made up for any reason (including any excused absences mentioned above).* Extra credit assignments will be made available to the whole class. Any requests for individual extra

credit will be denied to be fair to the entire class. Please note: Extra credit can help raise your grade, but it cannot be used to pass the class. In other words, extra credit will not be used to raise your grade from an F to a passing grade.

Electronic Writing Portfolio

Submissions for the EWP must be made according to university deadlines. If you submit a paper for consideration for the EWP, make sure to write a note in the textbox of the submission which tells me which paper you are submitting. For example, “This is the final research project for SOC 4790” or “This is the Week 3 Reaction Paper for CRM 4790.” That will speed up the process of assessment enormously.

The final course grade will be composed of:

Weekly Quizzes 12 @ 2% each	= 24%
Two Reaction Papers @ 13% each	= 26%
Research Project	= 30%
Discussion	= 20%

Grading Scale

90-100%	= A
80-89%	= B
70-79%	= C
60-69%	= D
0 – 59%	= F

Course Schedule*:

Date	Topics	Assignments Due
<p>Week 1 6/10 – 6/16</p>	<p>Chapter 1: The Correctional System</p> <p>Chapter 2: Sentencing and the Correctional Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Responses to Two Classmates Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Response Paper Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (Must complete two during the semester.) <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Quizzes Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central
<p>Week 2 6/17 – 6/23</p>	<p>Chapter 3: Community Corrections</p> <p>Chapter 4: Intermediate Sanctions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Responses to Two Classmates Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Response Paper Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (Must complete two during the semester.) <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Quizzes Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central
<p>Week 3 6/24 – 6/30</p>	<p>Chapter 5: Jails and Houses of Correction</p> <p>Chapter 6: Prisons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Responses to Two Classmates Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Response Paper Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (Must complete two during the semester.) <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Quizzes Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Research Project Proposal Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central.
<p>Week 4 7/1 – 7/7</p>	<p>Chapter 7: The Prison Experience: Males</p> <p>Chapter 8: The Prison Experience: Females</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Responses to Two Classmates Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Response Paper Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (Must complete two during the semester.) <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Quizzes Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Research Project Annotated Bibliography Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central
<p>Week 5</p>	<p>Chapter 9: Prisoners' Rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central

7/8 – 7/14	Chapter 11: Parole and Release to the Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Responses to Two Classmates Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Response Paper Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (Must complete two during the semester.) <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Quizzes Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Research Project Worksheet Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.
Week 6 7/15 – 7/19**	Chapter 12: Special Prison Populations Chapter 13: Capital Punishment and the Death Row Inmate	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Responses to Two Classmates Due <u>Friday</u> at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Quizzes Due <u>Friday</u> at 11:59 p.m. Central <input type="checkbox"/> Research Paper Due <u>Friday</u> at 11:59 p.m. Central

*I reserve the right to make changes to this course outline as needed. Any changes made will be posted on D2L.

**Note that this is a short week.