

SOCIOLOGY OF CORRECTIONS

(Sociology 423- 3 credits)

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Office Hours: Held through Skype by appointment

***I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time. Changes will be announced on the Moodle page.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

- Cullen, Francis T. and Cheryl Lero Jonson. 2017. *Correctional Theory: Context and Consequences* (2nd edition). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Latessa, Edward J. and Paula Smith. 2015. *Corrections in the Community* (6th edition). London & New York: Routledge.
- Additional readings will be posted on the Moodle course page.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will examine the philosophies of punishment, and the institutions and procedures of penal sanctioning. This examination will include historical, philosophical, theoretical, and research considerations. Students will develop understanding of evidence-based practice in corrections.
2. Student learning will move beyond description to the analysis of the major assumptions, dilemmas, issues, and problems of corrections.
3. Students will develop writing skills through short assignments. Writing skills include effective organization, development, and writing style (clarity, grammar, mechanics, and punctuation).

REQUIREMENTS:

1. **UMOnline-Moodle:** This course requires that you be able to navigate the UMLearn platform-Moodle. I will do my best to make course navigation very clear, but for those with more technical issues, I will be of little help. If you need assistance with this platform, please contact the UMLearn team at umonline-help@umontana.edu, or call (406) 243-4999 or (866) 255-1641 (toll free).
2. **The online environment:** This online format allows you the convenience of taking this course from an environment outside of the physical classroom. This offers certain advantages (i.e. flexibility to work around other commitments; receive feedback from the instructor without being tied to a classroom). However, this environment also requires that you be task oriented and stay on top of assignments and prepare for exams within the limits specified in the course schedule.
3. **Course Schedule:** Our weeks for this course will run from Sunday evening to Saturday evening. I will post all course materials on Sunday evening by 11:00 p.m. Please see the course schedule for assignment due dates.
4. **Assignment Due Dates/Times:** All assignments are due by midnight of the due date, unless otherwise indicated. All assignments will be graded in a timely manner.
5. **Late Work Policy:** No late work will be accepted without the instructor's prior approval.

6. **Naming and Submitting Assignments:** All assignments should be saved as Word or RTF documents and uploaded to the assignment on Moodle. Your files should be named with your last name and assignment. For example, hubbleassignment1.doc. Do not submit assignments by e-mail.
7. **Student-Instructor Communication:** To protect privacy, the instructor of this course is only able to communicate to students through university email. This is your official University of Montana account. I will not reply to any other account with personal information.

When contacting me through email, be professional and courteous. Include the course number or course name (SOCI 423 or Sociology of Corrections) in the subject line of your email. During the week, I will respond to all emails within 24 hours (it may take me longer to respond on the weekend). It is your responsibility to review the materials and assignments at the beginning of the week and ask questions in a timely manner.

If you have general questions about the syllabus, assignments, or course content that you think are pertinent to other students, you can post these questions on the Q&A discussion board. If you have a question that only pertains to you, please email me. I will also be available through Skype for individual meetings by appointment.

8. **Student Success Expectations:** To be successful in this course, students should:
- Carefully read and print out this syllabus and the course schedule to keep as a reference,
 - Log on to Moodle and check your email every day for new announcements and content.
 - Keep up with readings and course content (while the course content for each week will not be posted until Sunday evening, you can start reading the chapters in your text as specified by the course schedule).
9. **Academic Misconduct:** “Students at the University of Montana are expected to practice academic honesty at all times. Academic misconduct is subject to Academic Penalty (or penalties) by the course instructor and/or University Sanction(s) by the University through the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.” What is “academic misconduct”? What are the consequences? Please review the Student Conduct Code (http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

INTENT TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation by contacting the professor. For more information visit the Disability Services for Students Webpage (<http://www.umt.edu/dss>) and contact Disability Services.

GRADES:

Your grade for the course will be based on the total number of points earned throughout the semester. **530 total possible points** are distributed as follows.

Introductory Activity	10 points
Short Assignments	18 @ 10 points (180 points)
Course Material Discussions	14 @ 10 points (140 points)
Exam	2 @ 100 points (200 points)
TOTAL	530 points

Letter grades will be calculated on a straight percentage basis, using pluses and minuses.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	0-59%

Description of Assignments/Assessments

Introductory Activity (10 points)

The week of class, your assignment is to introduce yourself on Moodle (your name, where you are from) and write a short paragraph (5 sentences) answering the following two questions:

1. Why are you taking this class?
2. What is your philosophy of corrections and why?

This assignment will be graded on your completion of the activity and your reading of your classmates' postings. This assignment will be due on Saturday, January 12.

Assignments (180 points)

Throughout the semester, you will be required to submit several short assignments (1 or 2 per week; see course schedule) in response to the readings. I will pose a question about the readings and course material, and you will provide a well-written response to the question. Assignment questions will be posted at the beginning of the week, and all assignments will be due Saturday at midnight.

Course Material Discussions (140 points)

For each week of the course, you must post a question and/or reaction to one or more aspects of the course material for that week. In addition, you must reply to two of your classmates' postings. Postings should be at least 5 sentences in length. See chart for Educationally Valuable Talk for tips on how to write a good post. More details will be posted in the first forum. Questions and comments are due by Wednesday at midnight and replies are due by Saturday at midnight.

Exams (200 points)

There will be two exams during the course. These exams will test your knowledge of the core concepts of Sociology of Corrections. A study guide will be provided at the top of the course website. Exam 1 will cover Units 1 and 2. It will be made available on March 3 and will be due March 7. Exam 2 will cover Units 3 and 4. It will be made available on April 28 and will be due May 2.

Corrections in Media (Extra Credit)

In order to complete this activity, you must find a news article that exemplifies a theory of corrections we have discussed in class. Ideally, articles should be from 2018 or 2019. (If you find an older article you think best exemplifies this concept, please contact me and we can discuss whether or not it is appropriate to use.) Articles should be found in newspapers, in news magazines, or on online news sites. Please DO NOT use websites such as BuzzFeed, Reddit, or other online forums. You must then write a 1 to 1 ½ page analysis (double-spaced, 12 pt. font) of the news article. Provide a brief overview of what the article is about, but spend the majority of your analysis discussing how the article exemplifies or illustrates your chosen theory. You must be sure to explain/define the concept and make clear connections between the concept and the article. Please provide material from the article, as well as the textbook in your analysis. Quoting should be kept to a minimum. At the end of your analysis, provide citations for any sources you used (the article and the course text.) Please include the link for your article after your write-up. *Each write-up will be worth 5 points. A maximum of 4 may be submitted.*

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Course Schedule:	Readings/Resources:	Assignment/Assessments:
Unit 1: PHILOSOPHIES OF PUNISHMENT AND CORRECTIONAL THEORY		
Week 1: January 10- January 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Introduction" PowerPoint• "History of Penological Thought and Practice" PowerPoint• Uzuner (2007) *Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction Activity (Due January 12)
Week 2: January 13-January 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principles of Effective Reading and Essay Writing" PowerPoint• McBride (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 1• Discussion Board
Week 3: January 20- January 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cullen & Jonson CH 1• Cullen & Jonson CH 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 2• Assignment 3• Discussion Board
Week 4: January 27- February 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cullen & Jonson CH 3• Cullen & Jonson CH 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 4• Assignment 5• Discussion Board
Week 5: February 3- February 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cullen & Jonson CH 5• Cullen & Jonson CH 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 6• Assignment 7• Discussion Board
Week 6: February 10- February 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cullen & Jonson CH 7• Cullen & Jonson CH 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 8• Assignment 9• Discussion Board
Week 7: February 17- February 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cullen & Jonson CH 9• Cullen & Jonson CH 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 10• Assignment 11• Discussion Board
Unit 2: PENAL SANCTIONING		
Week 8: February 24- March 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Latessa & Smith CH 2• "Sentencing" PowerPoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 12• Discussion Board

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Correctional ‘System’” Chart • Latessa & Smith CH 8 • “Offender Assessment” PowerPoint 	
Unit 3: COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONS		
Week 9: March 3- March 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Community-Based Corrections” PowerPoint • Latessa & Smith CH 3 • Latessa & Smith CH 7 • “Probation” PowerPoint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 13 • Discussion Board • Exam 1 (Due March 7)
Week 10: March 10- March 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latessa & Smith CH 9 • “Probation Supervision” PowerPoint • Latessa & Smith CH 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 14 • Discussion Board
Week 11: March 17- March 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latessa & Smith CH 10 • Latessa & Smith CH 11 • “Intermediate Sanctions” PowerPoint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 15 • Discussion Board
Week 12: March 24- March 30	SPRING BREAK- NO CLASSES	SPRING BREAK- NO CLASSES
Week 13: March 31- April 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latessa & Smith CH 12 • Latessa & Smith CH 13 • “Specialty Courts” PowerPoint • Latessa & Smith CH 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 16 • Discussion Board
Unit 4: INCARCERATION		
Week 14: April 7- April 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phelps & Pager (2016) • “Jail” PowerPoint • “Ear Hustle” Podcast • “Prison Culture” PowerPoint • Mears (2013) • Wright et al. (2012) • “Prison Violence” PowerPoint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 17 • Discussion Board
Week 15: April 21- April 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latessa & Smith CH 4 • Jonson & Cullen (2015) • “Reentry” PowerPoint • “Prisoner Reentry” Video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 18 • Discussion Board
Finals Week: April 28- May 3	Finals Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 2 (Due May 2)