

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS  
FOR  
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
**CRIM 430**  
SPRING 2005

MRS. MELISSA BENNINGFIELD, INSTRUCTOR  
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OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS FOR COURSE

Pollock, J. M. (ed.). (1997). *Prisons today and tomorrow*. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers.

Knochel, M. & Ramirez, R. (2001). *Prison profiles*. Philadelphia, PA: Xlibris Corporation.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The correctional institution in the United States as it exists today in terms of its development, objectives, and standards; includes jails, detention homes, reformatories, furlough-detention camps, open and closed institutions. Prerequisites: 6 hours of criminology or consent of instructor.

## OBJECTIVES

This course is a requirement for criminology majors and minors and is open to graduate students. No previous knowledge of corrections is necessary for success in this course. The scope of this course will include the history of corrections and correctional institutions, correctional philosophies, adult, juvenile, and women's institutions, jails, prison programs, prisoners' rights, and the future of correctional institutions.

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of **every** class meeting. Regular attendance is expected of all students and strongly encouraged. In the event a student is absent, he or she is responsible for obtaining any missed notes, assignments, or other information from another student. Additionally, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor regarding make-up work. A written excuse for an absence must be presented to the instructor before an absence will be excused. Furthermore, excused absences are at the discretion of the instructor and will be honored only for legitimate reasons, i.e. student hospitalization, attending a family member's funeral, etc. Punctuality is expected of every student. Habitual tardiness **will not** be tolerated. Being late for class may cause the student to miss partial attendance credit. NOTE: In order to receive full attendance credit after coming to class late, the student **must** submit to the instructor in writing the reason he/she was late. Every three days a student is tardy will equal one day's absence.

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students should be aware that the instructor for this course takes situations involving academic dishonesty (a.k.a. cheating) very seriously. Students are held to University standards regarding honesty on papers, exams, quizzes, etc. Individuals who are found to be dishonest may be subject to receiving a failing grade for the course and/or may be referred to the College for academic dismissal. Honesty is a virtue and is expected in all work by all students.

## GRADING

Students will earn points for performance on examinations, quizzes, and a paper as well as for attendance. The approximate maximum number of points that each performance-grading tool will be worth is as follows.

examinations = 200 points  
quizzes = 50 points  
paper = 50 points  
attendance = 50 points  
estimated total number possible = 350 points

The following grading scale will be used to determine letter grades.

90% - 100% = A  
87 - 89 = B+  
80 - 86 = B  
77 - 79 = C+  
70 - 76 = C  
67 - 69 = D+  
60 - 66 = D  
below 60% = F

Examinations – Four examinations will be given throughout the semester. Each will consist of a combination of multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions totaling 50 points. Make-up exams will consist of essay and short-answer questions in addition to a few objective questions. Graduate students will have an essay question worth 15 points to answer in addition to the regular exam questions.

Quizzes - Five quizzes made up of multiple choice, true/false, and/or matching questions will be given during the course of the semester. Each quiz will be worth 10 points and will be announced prior to the day they are given. There will be **no make-ups** for the quizzes.

Paper – Students will have a choice of completing one of the following assignments to fulfill the paper requirement for the class. NOTE: Late papers will be subject to a ten (10) point penalty.

- 1) Bibliography (undergraduates only) – A specific topic will be chosen by the student and approved by the instructor. Research on the topic will be done at the library, and a list of sources (20 minimum) compiled. The paper will consist of a summary for each source and explain how that source could be used. The paper should include the topic, and the sources should be typed APA style. This paper will be due **Friday, April 1, 2005, at the beginning of class.**
- 2) Interview and Paper (undergraduates only) – A current or former employee of a correctional institution will be interviewed for this option. A list of questions will be provided by the instructor. The student will then type a narrative paper summarizing the answers to the questions from the interview. The paper will be due **Friday, April 1, 2005, at the beginning of class.**
- 3) Research Paper (undergraduates and graduates) – Students may conduct scholarly research on a subject related to correctional institutions and approved by the

instructor. A 10-page paper (undergraduates) or 15-page paper (graduates) must be written using the APA style of writing. A minimum of ten sources are to be used. A topic outline must be submitted to the instructor by **Friday, March 18, 2005**. The paper is due on **Friday, April 1, 2005, at the beginning of class**.

## **ASSIGNMENT AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**

The following schedule is an estimate of which chapters from the *Prisons* textbook will be covered during which part of the semester. Pertinent chapters from the *Prison Profiles* book will be assigned in class. Students are responsible for reading the assigned chapters **throughout** the weeks. It is imperative that students keep up with the reading so that they are prepared to participate in classroom discussions of the material. All important facts, ideas, etc. will not necessarily be discussed in class, but may be on exams and quizzes. The examinations are also included in the schedule below. Any changes in the schedule and specific dates will be announced in class.

WEEKS 1-3 – Punishment Philosophies, Prison History, and Prison Overcrowding  
EXAM #1 - Chapters 1-3

WEEKS 4-7 – Inmate Classification, Programs, and Rehabilitation  
EXAM #2 - Chapters 4-6

WEEKS 8-10 – Social Construct of Prisons, Prison Management, and Correctional Officers  
EXAM #3 – Chapters 7-9

WEEKS 11-14 – Prisoners' Rights, Privatization, Jails, and the Future of Prisons

WEEK 15 - Review for Final Exam – Chapters 10-13  
FINAL EXAM – Monday, May 2, 2005, at 10:00 AM

\*NOTE: *No class on the following dates:*

Monday, January 17, 2005 – MLK, Jr's Birthday

Monday-Friday, March 21-25, 2005 – Spring Break

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The instructor has regular office hours (see page 1) for the benefit of students. Any student desiring assistance, information, or advice regarding this course is encouraged to utilize the instructor's office hours and/or email the instructor.