

Seminar in Corrections
CJ 650
Fall 2009

Professor: W. Wesley Johnson, Ph.D.
Office: 115 Arthell Hall
Class Hours: Wednesday: 9:00-11:50 a.m.
Office Hours: Tuesday 9-12, Wednesday 1: 30 – 3: 30, Thursday 9-11, or by appointment
Classroom: Courtroom
Telephone: 266 – 4511
Email: William.W.Johnson@usm.edu

Required Texts:

Pratt, Travis C. (2009). *Addicted to Incarceration: Corrections Policy and the Politics of Misinformation in the United States*. Sage:Thousand Oaks, CA.

Slate, Risdon & W. Wesley Johnson (2008) *Criminalization of Mental Illness: Crisis and Opportunity for the Criminal Justice System*. *Carolina Academic Press*: Durham, NC.

Welch, Michael (2005). *Ironies of Imprisonment*: Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Recommended Texts:

Petersilia, Joan (2003) *When Prisoners Come Home: Parole and Prisoner Reentry*. Oxford University Press: New York, NY.

Course Objectives:

This seminar examines the evolution of punishment in modern society. Emphasis will be given to placing the “business” of corrections within a larger context of social control. The impact of economic changes, drug wars, wars on crime, gangs, prison violence, the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill, and demographic changes on corrections will be discussed in light of penal theory. Particular attention will be given to the analysis of correctional practices, both historical and contemporary, ranging from corporal and capital punishment to electronic supervision; from the emergence of the medical model to current “get tough” policies; from the emergence of a carceral society to the evolution of transcarceral control practices including the incarceration and community supervision of the mentally ill.

Course Format:

The class will follow a seminar format. Students are expected to come to class prepared and make significant contribution so to class discussion. Class participation will be 30% of the final grade. Students will be assigned readings to present in every class and are expected to be actively involved in the discussions of assigned reading materials. A subjective grade will be assigned for class participation. Students are expected to read beyond the course assignments and incorporate those readings into class discussions.

Class Attendance:

Per university policy, you are entitled to miss up to 3 hours of class or one weekly class meeting. I don't recommend missing any classes. If you are going to be absent from class you need to let me know as soon as possible so that any material assigned to you can be either reassigned. Excessive absences will impact your grade.

E-mail Accounts:

Every student is issued an e-mail account by the university. The university uses this account to contact students with messages from the Administrative and other offices. Students in this class are required to access their university e-mail account. You will, on occasion, be receiving information about the class and materials through this account. **Failure to have a university account or have access to it is not a failure on my part to communicate with you.**

Withdrawal Policy

The last day to drop this class without academic penalty is September 30, 2009..

Disabilities Policy

If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Mailing Address:

The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive #8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Contact Information:

Telephone: (601) 266-5024
TTY: (601) 266-6837
Fax: (601) 266-6035

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism Statement

Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty as outlined in the USM Student Handbook. The University's academic honesty policy will be strictly enforced. You are expected to understand the policy which is available in the University catalog and at http://www.usm.edu/pubs/studenthandbook/p001_111.pdf. In no instance will lack of familiarity with this policy excuse the violation. Other forms of academic dishonesty include buying papers, copying paragraphs/pages of text/whole papers off the internet, copying another student's answers, etc. Academic dishonesty can result in the grade of a "0" on the assignment and/or in the course and/or the student may be reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for further action.

Seminar Papers:

The student is expected to integrate class and outside materials to form the basis of their papers. The student should select a form of punishment or treatment and discuss from a critical perspective its evolution (i.e. fines, probation, parole, solitary confinement, psychological treatment, group therapy, drug treatment, supermax, super intensive probation, restitution, castration, electronic monitoring, administrative segregation, communication management

units, etc.). The bulk of the paper should be based on information from refereed journal articles and should be incorporated to provide for an analysis of punishment or treatment efficacy. No two students should have the same topic so you should let me know as soon as you identify a topic. Once you select a topic and it is approved by the professor it is expected you will complete your assignment on the reserved topic you selected and reserved. This paper is a historical analysis and can reference books other than those used in class can be used to supplement the journal articles used in the core of the paper. Do not use textbooks. Make sure to see me if you don't understand any part of these directions.

A minimum of 10 refereed journal sources are required for each paper. Papers should be limited to 25 pages including the title page and reference pages. Remember the length of a paper is not always a good measure of quality. Quotations should be kept to a minimum and preference should be placed on paraphrasing. Students are expected to write in a journal style citing multiple references within the narrative of their paper. See me if you don't understand this guidance.

Specific criteria for the grading of the paper are offered below. Deviations from the assigned topics are possible but must be approved by the instructor. Papers developed and presented in other classes are not acceptable. Such papers will receive a grade of zero – don't take the chance! Papers should be submitted in hard copy and disk format. All papers will be processed through Turnitin.com for plagiarism and originality. I suggest going to the Writing Center and have your paper reviewed/processed before turning it in to me. Remember the quality of consultants at university writing centers varies and the responsibility for the quality of the writing, particularly at the doctoral level, remains with the individual student.

Paper Topics: Topics must be approved at least 2 weeks prior to their due date. This can be done via email. To obtain approval please submit a one paragraph abstract (100 words max) with 10 refereed journal sources in the most current APA citation style. Once your sources are approved you will be required to use them in your final paper. Failure to have your topic approved on time will result in at least a one letter grade reduction on your assignment. Failure to incorporate the approved references in your final paper will result in a grade reduction on your assignment.

Paper Due Date: November 18, 2009

*Failure to submit the completed paper on the dates due will result in **a one-letter grade reduction for each day** that the paper is late.*

Performance Assessment:

I. Class participation (30%):

- **Preparation for class:** subjectively measured by, but not limited to the quality of questions asked during class discussion, the demonstrated understanding of assigned readings, and participation in sharing relevant articles/information beyond assigned readings for discussion.
- **Class discussion:** subjectively measured by, but not limited to, the quality and quantity of class discussion, willingness to listen and respond to opinions/interpretations of

others. Students are expected to read ALL assigned material and be prepared to discuss the material in class, not just what they are assigned to present for the class. Students are expected to demonstrate an advanced understanding of the assigned readings in class discussion. Students should provide handouts/outlines for other class participants when they are assigned to present information in class. Students not prepared for class may be dismissed.

II. Research paper (30%):

- Criteria for the grading of the research paper are:
 1. Incorporation of concepts/theories/information from assigned readings
 2. Incorporation of relevant sources beyond assigned readings
 3. Clarity of writing, appropriate use of grammar, and adherence to the most current version of the APA citation style.
 4. Application of findings to current correctional policy.
- Class presentation: Each student will be required to make a formal presentation of their paper to the class and lead a discussion of their findings. One to four points will be added to the research paper grade depending on the quality of the presentation. The criteria for the grading of the presentation are:
 1. Organization of presentation (outline handout, PowerPoint, etc.)
 2. Ability to hold audience's attention
 3. Substantive quality of information presented
 4. Relevance to primary foci of class

III. Final Exam (40%):

The exam will be comprehensive and will measure students' ability to synthesize material covered in class discussion and assigned readings.

Important Dates to Consider

Last Day to Drop without financial penalty: September 1, 2009

Last Day to Drop: September 30, 2009

Fall break: October 8-9

Last Day to file for Spring 2010 Commencement: November 6, 2009

Thanksgiving Holiday: November 25-27, 2009

Final exam week: December 7-10, 2009

Graduation: December 11, 2009