UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIREMENTS
Summer, 2015

SOC 347: Sociology of Corrections

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Telephone: (970) 351-2542

Prerequisite

none

Course Description

Survey of the history and structure of punishment in Western societies. Review of the major philosophies and practices of modern corrections. Topics covered include punishment, sentencing, jails, community corrections including probation and parole, prisons, corrections employees, age, gender, ethnicity and important legal issues.

Students With Disabilities

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Honor Code

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate. UNC’s policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed.
UNC’s Policies
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Textbook: The textbook listed below is required for the course:


Course Requirements

Regular online attendance is required. All persons taking the course for credit will be graded on the basis of their performance on five examinations and four discussions.

Examinations are designed to test your command of textbook material. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook (Please see attached Topical Agenda). Textbook materials may be used during examinations. Most exam questions will be taken from the textbook for the current section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook.

Examinations are taken online, and may be accessed via the “Exams” link on the course Home Page. In order to avoid penalties, examinations must be taken within designated time periods. Late exams are excused only with prior approval by the instructor, and if the instructor is notified in writing well in advance of the exam. All other late exams will be downgraded by five (5) points.

When participating in Discussions (except Discussion # 1, the “Ice Breaker”) you will be required to refer to, and to cite in-text, textbook materials, “Here Is My Take” materials, Power Point presentation materials, and information from YouTube videos. You will also be required to use, and cite in-text, relevant web-based material you find. Always use textbook material, plus, in order to earn “A” or “B” range grades, use and cite in-text at least two other types of listed material - in all posts. You will also be encouraged to cite other appropriate scholarly material. Participating late in Discussions is excused only with prior approval by the instructor, and if the instructor is notified in writing well in advance of the end of a Discussion period. All other late Discussion participation will result in a penalty of (5) points per Discussion. DO NOT string citations together. Instead, place citations in-text, directly after the material you have summarized from a specific required source. DO NOT quote excessively. Please limit yourself to no more than one brief quote per post. Instead of quoting, please summarize
material in your own words.

Discussions can be accessed using the "Discussion Board" link on the course Home Page. Exams can be accessed using the "Exams" link on the course Home Page.

Discussions and Exams are available on Blackboard (http://unco.blackboard.com). The login and password for Blackboard is the same as you use when accessing URSA. If you need help finding Blackboard, with login or password issues, or with any other technical aspect of using Blackboard, please call the UNC Help Desk (970-351-4357) and ask for help. If the Help Desk does not provide the help you need, please let me know, via email message, ASAP. Learning objectives, chapter summaries, Power Point presentations, “Here Is My Take” materials and YouTube videos can be accessed by using the “Course Materials” link.

Grading

For grading purposes, each Examination is valued as indicated below:

Exam 1 ............... 25 points
Exam 2 ............... 25 points
Exam 3 ............... 25 points
Exam 4 ............... 25 points

For grading purposes, each Discussion is valued as indicated below:

Discussion 1 ........ 25 points
Discussion 2 ........ 25 points
Discussion 3 ........ 25 points
Discussion 4 ........ 25 points

Total 200 Possible Points

Final grades for the course will be determined by summing the points that you earn on Examinations and Discussions and by using the following formula to convert cumulative scores to letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>180-200......</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160-179......</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140-159......</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120-139......</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOPICAL AGENDA

UNIT 1

Discussion 1 – Ice Breaker

Instructions: In a CLEARLY LABELED Main Post (label it “Main Post,” nothing else), please introduce yourself to your classmates. At minimum, please tell us about: (1) your educational history, starting with elementary school, (2) your educational interests/plans, (3) your occupational interests/plans and (4) anything else about yourself that you care to share with us. You must also comment on the main posts of three classmates. Note: This is a required part of the class. Possible points: 25 maximum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ways of Thinking About Corrections:</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The History of Corrections</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Correctional History</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentencing and Punishment</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exam 1 covers textbook chapters 1-4.

Examinations are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook. Textbook materials may be used during examinations. Most exam questions will be taken from the textbook for that section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook. You will have 1 hour to complete each exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In order to prevent your being disconnected before the exam has been completed, it is strongly recommended that you enter exams using a WIRED (not wireless) connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. Please note: If exams are taken

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1 All chapter reading assignments are for Stohr & Walsh, 2012, Corrections: The Essentials (our textbook).
late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.

UNIT 2

Discussion 2—Important Concepts

Instructions: Find three websites that focus on important concepts related to criminal-legal corrections. In your CLEARLY LABELED Main Post (label it “Main Post,” nothing else), provide the addresses of the sites. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, describe the contents of each site, and explain how EACH SITE provides information about at least 1 of the following 5 important concepts (punishment, jails, penitentiaries, philosophies and styles of imprisonment and philosophies and styles of sentencing) found in our textbook. Your main post must cover at least 3 of the 5 important concepts. As you develop your main post, and as you introduce EACH important concept, please place it in CAPITAL LETTERS, and please cite, in-text, the textbook page numbers where the concept is discussed. In order to earn high grades, you must also summarize, and cite in-text, information from other required sources (Power Point Presentation, “Here Is My Take” materials, and YouTube videos). Always use textbook material. In order to earn “A” or “B” range grades, you must also use, and cite in-text, at least two other types of listed material – IN ALL POSTS. Example: For the concept “delinquent child,” the in-text textbook citation would look like this: (Text, pp.11-12). The Power Point citation would look like this: (Chapter 1 Power Point, Slides #s 6 and 13). The YouTube citation would look like this: (YouTube, ‘The Adolescent Child). The “Here Is My Take” citation would look like: (Musick, Chapter 1, p. 12). Note: Textbook material (always), and, for “A” or “B” range grades, at least two of the following: Power Point, “Here Is My Take” and YouTube material, must be included, and cited in-text. This is how you prove to me that you have read and viewed the material.

Finally, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, using, and citing it in-text, material found in our textbook (always) as well as in Power Point presentations, “Here Is My Take” materials and YouTube videos (for “A” and “B” range grades, use at least two other types of required material in all comment posts), comment on the main posts of three classmates. Note: This is a required part of the class. Possible points: 25 maximum. In order to earn maximum points, please select websites that other members of the class have not already discussed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jails</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation &amp; Community Corrections</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exam 2 covers textbook chapters 5-8.

Examinations are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook. Assigned reading materials may be used during examinations. Most exam questions will be taken from the assigned reading for that section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook. You will have 1 hour to complete the Exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In order to prevent your being disconnected before the Exam has been taken, it is strongly recommended that you enter Exams using a WIRED (not wireless) connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. Please note: If exams are taken late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.

UNIT 3

Discussion 3 – Elements of Offenders’ Correctional Experiences

Instructions: Find 3 websites that focus on at least 3 of the following elements of offender and staff experience (jails, probation & community service, prisons, parole and other aspects of prisoner reentry as well as age, gender and minority status). In your CLEARLY LABELED Main Post (label it “Main Post,” nothing else), provide the addresses of the sites. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, describe the contents of each site, and explain how EACH SITE provides information that amplifies (or compliments) what you have read about the concepts in our textbook. As you develop your main post, and as you introduce EACH important concept, please place it in CAPITAL LETTERS, and please cite, in-text, the textbook page numbers where the concept is discussed. In order to earn high grades, you must also summarize, and cite in-text, information from other required sources (Power Point Presentation, “Here Is My Take” materials, and YouTube videos). Always use textbook material. In order to earn “A” or “B” range grades, you must also use, and cite in-text, at least two other types of listed material – IN ALL POSTS. Please use the citation format described in the Discussion 2 instructions, above. Note: Textbook material must always be summarized, and cited in-text. In order to earn “A” or “B” range grades, at least two other required types of material (Power Point, “Here Is My Take” and YouTube) must be included, and cited in-text. This is how you prove to me that you have read and viewed the material.

Finally, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, using, and citing it in-text, material found in
our textbook (always) as well as in Power Point presentations, “Here Is My Take” materials and YouTube videos (for “A” and “B” range grades, use at least two other types of required material in all comment posts), comment on the main posts of three classmates. Note: This is a required part of the class. Possible points: 25 maximum. In order to earn maximum points, please select websites that other members of the class have not already discussed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Correctional Experience for Staff</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Corrections</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minorities and Corrections</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles and Corrections</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exam 3** covers textbook chapters 9-12.

**Examinations** are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook. Assigned reading materials may be used during examinations. **Most exam questions will be taken from the assigned reading for that section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook.** You will have 1 hour to complete the Exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In order to prevent your being disconnected before the Exam has been taken, it is strongly recommended that you enter Exams using a WIRED (not wireless) connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. **Please note: If exams are taken late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.**

**UNIT 4**

**Discussion 4 – Corrections Today and in the Future**

Instructions: Find 3 websites that focus on at least 3 of the following five elements of corrections today and in the future (the correctional experience for staff, important legal issues in corrections, correctional programming and treatment, the future of corrections and the privatization of corrections). In your CLEARLY LABELED Main Post (label it “Main Post,” nothing else), provide the addresses of the sites. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, describe the contents of each site, and explain how EACH SITE provides information that amplifies (or compliments) what you have read about the concepts in Chapters 12-16 of our textbook. As you develop your main post, and as you introduce EACH important concept, **please place it in CAPITAL LETTERS**, and please
cite, in-text, the textbook page numbers where the concept is discussed. In order
to earn high grades, you must also summarize, and cite in-text, information from
other required sources (Power Point Presentation, “Here Is My Take”
materials, and YouTube videos). Always use textbook material. In order
to earn “A” or “B” range grades, you must also use, and cite in-text, at least
two other types of listed material – IN ALL POSTS. Please use the citation
format described in the Discussion 2 instructions, above. Note: Textbook
material must always be summarized, and cited in-text. In order to earn
“A” or “B” range grades, at least two other required types of material
(Power Point, “Here Is My Take” and YouTube) must be included, and
cited in-text. This is how you prove to me that you have read and viewed
the material.

Finally, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, using, and citing it in-text, material found in
our textbook (always) as well as in Power Point presentations, “Here Is My
Take” materials and YouTube videos (for “A” and “B” range grades, use at
least two other types of required material in all comment posts), comment
on the main posts of three classmates. Note: This is a required part of the class.
Possible points: 25 maximum. In order to earn maximum points, please select
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Issues in Corrections</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional Programming and Treatment</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrections in the 21st Century</td>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
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