



Penology

SOCL 530 Section # 001 Fall 2016
August 22, 2016 – December 13, 2016

Professor: Pavel V. Vasiliev
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Class Meetings: Online
Office Hours: Daily by email
Phone: TBD

For Technical Assistance with BLACKBOARD: Contact the WKU IT Help Desk at 270-745-7000 or visit <https://www.wku.edu/it/helpdesk/> for live chat or consult Knowledge Base.

Course Description: This course explores the evolution and philosophy of correctional practices from early to contemporary times. First part of the course examines the role of prisons and other penal practices in the historical context focusing on European and American corrections. Second part of the course provides a comprehensive review of the issues in modern American corrections. Specific topics include: incarceration growth, incapacitation, rehabilitation, recidivism, prison organization and management, and inmates' life in prison. We will also read about controversial issues, such as the racial disproportion in prisons, privatization, prisoner reentry, and death penalty. Ultimate goal of this class is to stimulate evidence-based thinking about correctional policies and practices.

Course Objectives: The successful student will:

- 1) Learn about the history of punishment in pre-modern societies.
- 2) Understand the social and theoretic changes which led to emergence of modern corrections.
- 3) Understand contemporary theories of corrections and debates about their goals and validity.
- 4) Explore major correctional issues and controversies in contemporary U.S.
- 5) Have an opportunity for independent work – creating a presentation or writing a paper.

Materials You Are Required to Read Prior to Each Class Period (see schedule for details):

Morris, Norval and David J. Rothman. 1998. *The Oxford History of the Prison: The Practice of Punishment in Western Society*. NY: Oxford University Press.
Flanagan, Timothy J., James W. Marquart, and Kenneth G. Adams. 1998. *Incarcerating Criminals: Prisons and Jails in Social and Organizational Context*. NY: Oxford University Press.
Readings that will be posted on the Blackboard course management page.

Class Format:

- 1) I will post my lectures as powerpoint files and readings as .pdf files on the Blackboard.
- 2) Study guides will be posted in advance prior to each exam.
- 3) Students have a lot of autonomy to pace themselves through the readings but are expected to take 8 online quizzes, 2 exams, and complete other tasks assigned by professor.

Student Evaluation:

Your final grade for the course will be figured according to the following method:

Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%
Online Quizzes	25%
Research Paper / Presentation	25%

I. Exams:

- 1) There will be two closed book exams consisting of primarily multiple choice questions.
- 2) Roughly a half of the questions will cover the assigned readings and another half will cover my lectures which I have posted on the Blackboard. Questions are going to be very straightforward and easy to those who read the material. Study guides will be provided in advance.
- 3) Exams will be available on the Blackboard from 9:00am to 11:45pm on **September 29** and **November 29**. Once you log in – you will have **90 minutes** to finish, and only **one attempt**.

II. Online Quizzes: There will be 8 quizzes posted on the Blackboard. Online quizzes need to be finished by 11:45pm on the day they appear on the syllabus (see class schedule for details) and I will make them available on Blackboard at least 48 hours in advance.

III. Research Paper / Presentation: You will prepare a research paper or a presentation on a topic of your choosing (within the field of penology). The goal of this assignment is to allow you to engage in independent research and to demonstrate your knowledge of the chosen topic to the class and the professor. Choose a topic that is **fun** or **relevant** for your professional life. Both the presentation and the paper should have no less than 10 academic sources (i.e. cite 10 articles from peer-reviewed academic journals). If you choose to create a presentation the substance and tone of the presentation have to be academic and constructive. Submit a topic, a brief outline of the research paper / presentation no later than November 1st so I can approve it. Review of scholarly literature on a particular issue in penology is a great option (say you cover the research findings on GPS offender monitoring). I will provide additional guidelines for this assignment later in the semester and I reserve the right to weight the paper / presentation differently in terms of grading to ensure equal reward for equal student effort. If you do not **email me that assignment as an attachment** by 12 pm on December 9 you lose 25% of the grade.

Tips for Success: *following these steps will allow you to pass the class successfully.*

- 1) Read the assigned material prior to taking the exam.
- 2) Be able to explain the key ideas and concepts in the readings.
- 3) Fill in the study guide, provided in advance by the professor, to prepare for the exam.
- 4) Do not miss exams.

Student Disabilities Statement: All individuals diagnosed with a disability are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. As such, you may be entitled to certain accommodations within this class. If you are diagnosed with a disability, please call 745-5004 or stop by Student Disability Services (SDS), DUC A200. All students with the necessary supporting documentation will be provided appropriate accommodations as determined by the SDS office. It is entirely your responsibility to contact SDS and concurrently supply me with your accommodation plan, which will inform me exactly what

accommodations you are entitled to. You will only receive accommodations once you provide me with an SDS accommodation plan. Any previously recorded grades will not be changed.

READING LIST / *RECOMMENDED CLASS SCHEDULE

The schedule is “recommended” in a sense that you can choose to pace yourself faster or slower and read the materials on any days you desire. But the exam and quiz dates are set in stone for the class and non-negotiable (except for documented emergency situations). Exams will be available on September 29 and November 29 from 9:45am till 11:45pm. Online quizzes need to be finished by 11:45pm on the day they appear on the syllabus and I will make them available on Blackboard at least 48 hours in advance.

Course Structure at a Glance (consult Class Schedule below for precise dates and activities)

Week	Topics
1	Course Introduction
2	Theories of and Justifications for Punishment
3	Ancient and Medieval Penology
4	Emergence of Modern Penology
5	Political Imprisonment
6	Exam #1
7	Modern Corrections: Prison Growth and Sentencing
8	Rehabilitation, Recidivism, Alternative Sanctions, Deterrence
9	Institutional Organization and Management
10	Inmates and Everyday Life in Prison
11	Significant Issues: Gender, Race, and Corrections
12	Significant Issues: Privatization, Reentry, Death Penalty
13	Exam #2
14	Students Work on Final Papers / Projects
15	Student Work on Final Papers / Projects, Post and Discuss Them

August

T 23rd **Class Introduction**

R 25th **Philosophical and Ideological Underpinnings of Corrections** (Lecture Only)

T 30th **Theorizing the Punishment**

“Sociological Perspectives on Punishment”¹

IC² “The Historical Origins of the Sanction of Imprisonment for Serious Crime” pp. 10-14

Online Quiz #1 is due

September

R 1st **Theorizing the Punishment**

“Characteristics of Total Institutions”

¹ *Italicized titles* are for articles posted on Blackboard.

² IC = “Incarcerating Criminals” by Flanagan, Marquart, and Adams (1998)

IC “Complete and Austere Institutions” pp. 23-29

T 6th Pre-Modern Penology

OHP³ “Prison before the Prison: Ancient and Medieval Worlds” pp. 3-43

OHP “The Body and the State: Early Modern Europe” pp. 44-70

Online Quiz #2 is due

R 8th Pre-Modern Penology

IC “The Disappearance of Public Executions” pp. 2-9

T 13th Emergence of Modern Penology

OHP “Perfecting the Prison: United States, 1789-1865” pp. 100-116

OHP “The Failure of Reform: United States, 1865-1965” pp. 117-150

Online Quiz #3 is due

R 15th Emergence of Modern Penology

Same readings as for the previous class

T 20th Political Imprisonment

OHP “Confining Dissent: the Political Prison” pp. 350-380

“Bloodbath by Numbers”

Online Quiz #4 is due

R 22nd Political Imprisonment

Optional Activity: watch “*One Day in Life of Ivan Denisovich*” (1970) or “*Stalin: Inside the Terror*” (2003) on Youtube.com

T 27th Review for Exam #1

R 29th Exam #1

October

T 4th Myths about Corrections

“*The Myth of Prisons as Country Clubs*”

“*The Myth That Prisons Can Be Self-Supporting*”

“*The Myth That Imprisonment is the Most Severe Form of Punishment*”

“*The Myth That Correctional Rehabilitation Does Not Work*”

“*The Myth That Rehabilitation is the Focus of Community Corrections*”

T 11th Incapacitation, Retribution, Sentencing, and Incarceration Growth

“*American Prisons at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century*”

“*Population Growth in U.S. Prisons, 1980-1996*”

“*The Politics of Punishment: Evaluating Political Explanations of Incarceration Rates*”

“*The Great American Crime Decline*”

Online Quiz #5 is due

R 13th Incapacitation, Retribution, Sentencing, and Incarceration Growth

³ OHP = “The Oxford History of the Prison” by Morris and Rothman (1998)

Same readings as for the previous class

- T 18th **Rehabilitation, Recidivism, Alternative Sanctions, and Deterrence**
“Who Returns to Prison?”
“What Works” Revisited: New Findings on Criminal Rehabilitation”
“From Nothing Works to What Works: Changing Professional Ideology in 21st Century”
Online Quiz #6 is due
- R 20th **Rehabilitation, Recidivism, Alternative Sanctions, and Deterrence**
Same readings as for the previous class
- T 25th **Institutional Organization and Management**
“The Need for More Control in the Society of Captives”
IC “Discipline” pp. 214-219
“Why More Control is Better When Governing Prisons”
IC “Judicial Intervention: Lessons from the Past” pp. 81-90
Online Quiz #7 is due
- R 27th **Inmates and Everyday Life in Prison**
IC “Changes in Prison Culture: Prison Gangs and the Case of the “Pepsi Generation”” pp. 118-126
“Target Violence”
IC “The Special Management Inmate” pp.99-105

November

- T 1st **Inmates and Everyday Life in Prison : group presentation topic and membership list are due!**
IC “Tuberculosis in Correctional Facilities” pp. 166-168
IC “Effective Treatment for Drug and Alcohol Problems: What Do We Know?” pp. 174-184
IC “Effective Correctional Programming: What Empirical Research Tells Us” pp. 207-214
Online Quiz #8 is due
- R 3rd **Issues in Contemporary Corrections: Ethnoracial, Gender Composition of Prison Population**
IC “Racial Disproportion in U.S. Prisons” pp. 287-301
IC “A Prison Superintendent’s Perspective on Women in Prison” pp. 93-98
“Women in Prison: Vengeful Equity”
- R 10th **Issues in Contemporary Corrections: Privatization, Prisoner Reentry, and Death Penalty**
“Correctional Privatization and the Myth of Inherent Efficiency”
“Prisoner Reentry: Public Safety and Reintegration Challenges”
“The Changing Nature of Death Penalty Debates”
- T 15th **Issues in Contemporary Corrections: Juvenile Offenders and Early Interventions**
Activity: watch “T2A National Conference: Dr Ineke Pruin, University of Greifswald, Germany”
and “Young Kids, Hard Time” (2012) or “When Kids Get Life” (2007) on Youtube.com
- R 17th **Evidence-based Correctional Policies and Practices**
“Four Correctional Lessons: Choosing Our Future”
- T 22nd **Review for Exam #2**

T 29th Exam #2

December

R 1st Students Work on The Final Papers / Projects

T 6th Students Work on The Final Papers / Projects

F 9th Students Email Me or Post Final Papers / Projects on Blackboard and Discuss Them