



Penology

CRIM 380 Section # 970



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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 [WKU IT Help Desk](#) for live chat or consult Knowledge Base.

Course Description:

This asynchronous “On Demand” online 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 creative work – writing reflection papers.

Materials You Are Required to Read (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 sequentially through the readings but are expected to take 8 online quizzes, 2 exams, and complete other tasks assigned by professor.
- Although there is no universal timeline students are required to complete the course by the WKU On Demand deadline.

Student Evaluation:

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

Exam #1	30%
Exam #2	30%
Online Quizzes	30%
Reflection Papers	10%

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 posted in advance in the “**Exams**” **section** of our course on the Blackboard.
- 3) Exams will be available on the Blackboard. Once you log in – you will have **90 minutes** to finish, and only **one attempt**. Avoid unstable coffee shop WIFI as it might interrupt the exam.

II. Online Quizzes:

There will be 8 open-book quizzes posted on the Blackboard. Online quizzes 1 to 4 need to be finished prior to taking Exam #1 and quizzes 5 to 8 – prior taking Exam #2 (see class reading schedule for details). Once you log in timer does not stop, you have 90 minutes and 1 attempt. Per WKU regulations, at least 1 quiz has to be taken in a proctored environment – contact WKU On Demand and they will help and arrange that: [WKU On Demand Contact Us Page](#)

III. Reflection Papers:

You will prepare 5 short reflection papers on a topic within the field of penology. The goal of this assignment is to allow you to engage in reflection, critical thinking, independent research, and to demonstrate your knowledge of the concepts and facts to the professor. There are 5 sections of the course that I want you reflect on, yet you will have a degree of choice as well. The papers should be constructive and academic in tone and substance. Evidence-based papers relying on academic sources (i.e. books or articles from peer-reviewed academic journals, including the ones assigned for the course) or data sources (i.e. Bureau of Justice Statistics, etc.) are privileged over purely opinion-based papers. I will provide additional guidelines for these assignments in the specific folder containing all the materials for the particular section of the course that I want you to reflect on (for example in the folder titled “Module 1: Philosophical and Ideological Underpinnings of Corrections” or in the folder “Module 3: History of Punishment”).

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

- 1) Please email me (pavel.vasiliev@wku.edu “CRIM 380” in subject line) once you enroll in the course – WKU On Demand does not notify me, so it is up to you to notify me that you joined and I can start monitoring your progress with course material.
- 2) Read the assigned material prior to taking the quizzes or the exams.
- 3) Be able to explain the key ideas and concepts in the readings.
- 4) Fill in the study guide, provided in advance by the professor, to prepare for the exam. Print out my lectures and match lectures with the study guide questions to focus your learning.
- 5) Do not miss exams and avoid using unstable WIFI.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

WKU regards cheating as a serious offence and plagiarism or cheating on any graded assignment will result in expulsion from the course, a failing grade, and possibly additional disciplinary action. See Student Code of Conduct for additional details.

Student Disabilities Statement:

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu . Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX Misconduct / Assault Statement:

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU’s Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at [WKU Title IX Sexual Misconduct / Assault Policy](#) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at [WKU Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

READING LIST / *RECOMMENDED COURSE STRUCTURE

The schedule below 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 in a sequential manner. This is an asynchronous online class so you control the speed at which you progress with the material. You are responsible for taking the exams and quizzes at the time of your choosing. You must take quizzes 1 to 4 before taking Exam #1 and quizzes 5 to 8 before taking Exam #2. Quiz #5 will be taken in a proctored environment, per WKU regulations, and WKU On Demand folks will help arrange that – it is your responsibility to contact them.

Section	Course Material	Assessment
Class Introduction	Welcome powerpoint + Syllabus	
1. Philosophical and Ideological Underpinnings of Corrections	Lecture + “ <i>NIJ: 5 Things About Deterrence</i> ”	Reflection Paper #1
2. Theorizing the Punishment	Lecture + “ <i>Sociological Perspectives on Punishment</i> ¹ ” + IC ² “The Historical Origins of the Sanction of Imprisonment for Serious Crime” pp. 10-14. Optional: “ <i>Characteristics of Total Institutions</i> ” + IC “Complete and Austere Institutions” pp. 23-29	Online Quiz #1 is due
3. History of Punishment: Pre-Modern Penology and Emergence of Modern Penology	Lecture (part 1) + OHP ³ “Prison before the Prison: Ancient and Medieval Worlds” pp. 3-43 + OHP “The Body and the State: Early Modern Europe” pp. 44-70 Optional: IC “The Disappearance of Public Executions” pp. 2-9	Online Quiz #2 is due
	Lecture (part 2) + OHP “Perfecting the Prison: United States, 1789-1865” pp. 100-116 + OHP “The Failure of Reform: United States, 1865-1965” pp. 151-175	Reflection Paper #2 + Online Quiz #3 is due
4. Political Imprisonment	Lecture + OHP “Confining Dissent: the Political Prison” pp. 350-380 + “ <i>Bloodbath by Numbers</i> ” Optional: watch “ <i>One Day in Life of Ivan Denisovich</i> ” (1970) or “ <i>Stalin: Inside the Terror</i> ” (2003) on Youtube.com	Online Quiz #4 is due
EXAM #1		
5. Myths about Corrections	Lecture + <i>The Myth of Prisons as Country Clubs</i> ” + “ <i>The Myth That Prisons Can Be Self-Supporting</i> ” + “ <i>The Myth That Imprisonment is the Most Severe Form of Punishment</i> ” + “ <i>The Myth That Correctional Rehabilitation Does Not Work</i> ” + “ <i>The Myth That Rehabilitation is the Focus of Community Corrections</i> ”	Check the results of Exam #1 on Blackboard – examine the questions you have missed

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

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

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

Section	Course Material	Assessment
6. Incapacitation, Retribution, Sentencing, and Incarceration Growth	Lecture + “ <i>The Great American Crime Decline</i> ” + “ <i>American Prisons at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century</i> ” + “ <i>Population Growth in U.S. Prisons, 1980-1996</i> ”	Reflection Paper #3 (it will cover “Myths” Section) + Online Quiz #5 is due
7. Rehabilitation, Recidivism, Alternative Sanctions, and Deterrence	Lecture + “ <i>Who Returns to Prison?</i> ” + “ <i>What Works</i> ” Revisited: <i>New Findings on Criminal Rehabilitation</i> ” + “ <i>From Nothing Works to What Works: Changing Professional Ideology in 21st Century</i> ”	Online Quiz #6 is due
8. Institutional Organization and Management	Lecture + “ <i>The Need for More Control in the Society of Captives</i> ” + IC “Discipline” pp. 214-219 + “ <i>Why More Control is Better When Governing Prisons</i> ” + IC “Judicial Intervention: Lessons from the Past” pp. 81-90	Online Quiz #7 is due
9. Inmates and Everyday Life in Prison	IC “Changes in Prison Culture: Prison Gangs and the Case of the “Pepsi Generation”” pp. 118-126 + “ <i>Target Violence</i> ” + IC “The Special Management Inmate” pp.99-105 Optional: 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	Reflection Paper #4 + Online Quiz #8 is due
10. Issues in Contemporary Corrections: a) Ethnoracial, Gender, and Class Composition of Prison Population	Lecture + IC “Racial Disproportion in U.S. Prisons” pp. 287-301 + IC “A Prison Superintendent’s Perspective on Women in Prison” pp. 93-98 + “ <i>Women in Prison: Vengeful Equity</i> ”	Reflection Paper #5 (it will cover any contemporary issue of your choice)
b) Privatization, Prisoner Reentry, and Death Penalty	“ <i>Correctional Privatization and the Myth of Inherent Efficiency</i> ” + “ <i>Prisoner Reentry: Public Safety and Reintegration Challenges</i> ”+ “ <i>The Changing Nature of Death Penalty Debates</i> ”	
c) Juvenile Offenders and Early Interventions	Activity: watch “ <i>T2A National Conference: Dr. Ineke Pruin, University of Greifswald, Germany</i> ” and “ <i>Young Kids, Hard Time</i> ” (2012) on Youtube.com or “ <i>When Kids Get Life</i> ” (2007) on PBS.org	
d) Evidence-based Correctional Policies and Practices	“ <i>Four Correctional Lessons: Choosing Our Future</i> ”	
EXAM #2		