CRIM 3300 (Corrections): T/F, 9:50 AM – 11:30 AM, 452 Ryder Hall

NB: Schedule is subject to change during semester if needed.

Instructor: John Montgomery, M.A.

Office Hours: T/F 11:30 AM – 12:15 AM in 502C Hayden Hall (appointment recommended)

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Course Catalog Description: Examines the concept of punishment and its form, function(s), and enforcement throughout history, with an emphasis on current sentencing policies and procedures and their impact on the corrections system and correctional overcrowding. Explores the operation, structure, clientele, and issues confronting the institutions, agencies, and programs encompassing the corrections system including jails, prisons, and community-based corrections.

Required Books:


Students must also acquire a book for the book review assignment (see details below).

*Additional readings posted to the course Blackboard page*

NB: Books are available though the campus bookstore and are on reserve in Snell.

Classroom Conduct and Expectations: Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading for that day. The lectures are not designed as a substitute for reading. Attendance is required and vital to receiving a high grade in the course. All opinions and those who voice them in the class deserve respect; prejudice or bias towards others will not be tolerated. It is also expected that students will check their e-mail and Blackboard several times a week for new information. Lastly, the instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus and schedule as necessary.

Academic Integrity: All students are responsible for the integrity and honesty of their own work, including citation of sources. Please familiarize yourself with Northeastern’s Academic Honesty and Integrity policy (http://www.northeastern.edu/osccr/academicichonesty.html), any violation of that policy will be dealt with via the procedure described in the Student Handbook.

Disability Services: If any member of the class feels that s/he has a disability, please advise me of the desired accommodations by the end of the first week of class or as soon as you have written documentation from the Disability Resource Center (http://www.northeastern.edu/drc/). I will work with you and the staff from the Disability Resource Center to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform and participate in class.
Assignments and Grading

- **Attendance**: 50 points
- **Participation**: 50 points
- **Reading Reactions and Facilitation**: 200 points
  - Each reaction (10 total): 15 points each
  - Discussion Facilitation: 50 points
- **Film Reactions**: 100 points
  - Each reaction (4 total): 25 points each
- **Book Review**: 200 points
- **Reading Quizzes (3)**: 300 points (100 points each)
- **Crime in the News (5)**: 100 points
  - Each post: 20 points

**Attendance (50 points)**: Attendance will be taken at the start of most classes. Absence is only excused for university-approved trips/games/meetings and/or for documented medical issues. Students can have up to two unexcused absences and receive all 50 attendance points, but any additional absences will result in a lower point total, as follows:

- 0-1 absences = 50 points
- 2 absences = 30 points
- 3 absences = 15 points
- 4 or more absences = 0 points

**Participation (50 points)**: Please note that constructive participation in class discussion is a requirement for this course. Constructive participation means that you contribute to the class discussion on a regular basis. This generally requires you to a) be present and b) have done the day’s reading assignment. Personal impressions and experiences are a valuable part of class discussion, but they are much more valuable if the speaker can relate those experiences to the course material in some way. Both quality and quantity matter. There is not a minimum number of contributions that you need to make and you are not required to participate every class but regular participation is essential for the full 50 points.

**Book Review (200 points)**: Each student will select a book to review during the semester and the review should include a summary/analysis and critique of the book. The individual book reviews will be due the final day of class (April 21st). Books will be assigned during the first week of class. The written book reviews should be between 5-8 pages. Please use 1-inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font, double spacing, page numbers, and correct formatting (either APA or MLA). Samples will be posted to Blackboard.

**Reading Reactions and Facilitation (200 points)**: Students must post a summary—10 total—of the reading (between 300-500 words for each summary) and at least two questions for discussion by 8:00 AM the day of the related discussion. Each reaction/questions posted is worth up to 15 points for 150 total points. The discussion questions will be used in class and the “post by 8:00 AM” rule will be strictly enforced.

The remaining 50 points is for facilitating the discussion in class one time this semester. For that portion of the assignment, each student will facilitate a discussion using the reading reactions.
and discussion questions posted to Blackboard. The discussion should last for at least 15 minutes and incorporate questions from as many other students as possible. Days will be assigned the first week of class. Note: students do not have to post a summary on the day they facilitate the discussion but it will still count as one of their 10 total required summaries/questions if they do.

**Film Reactions (100 points):** Students must post a summary and reaction to four of the five documentaries/films that we will watch in class this semester to earn all 100 points (25 points per reaction). You do not need to include discussion questions like with the reading reactions but you still need to write at least 300 words for each reaction. These reactions must be posted within one week from when we watch it in class.

**Reading Quizzes (300 points):** There will be 3 reading quizzes worth 100 points each, for a total of 300 points. The quizzes will be mostly based on the reading from *American Corrections in Brief*, but a few questions may come from other readings, lectures, and films. Quizzes will be taken during class and will be multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer questions. If a student misses a quiz, they must make it up during office hours or by appointment within one week of the quiz date. **Quiz dates: Feb 3rd, Feb 27th, and April 17th.**

**Crime in the News (100 points):** For this assignment students need to apply concepts that we discuss in class to “real world” problems and issues in corrections. Students need to locate a news story on a corrections related topic (crime, prison, jail, probation, etc.) and respond to it via a Blackboard discussion post. A total of 5 “Crime in the News” discussion posts are due during the course of the semester (20 points each for a total of 100 points). To receive full credit your response should: Briefly summarize the issue presented in the article; discuss how this relates to the course readings; give your opinion on the issue. Also, you must correctly cite (APA or MLA) the article you are referencing in your discussion post. Please be prepared to talk about your most recent Crime in the News discussion post in class if asked.

In order to spread the Crime in the News assignments out over the semester, there are 2 separate discussion board forums on Blackboard. The first is open from the start of the semester until Feb 27th and the second is open from Feb 28th until April 19th. You are limited to 4 Crime in the News assignments in either forum. So, assuming you do all 5 submissions, you’ll have 3 in one forum and 2 in the other, or 4 in one and 1 in the other.

Letter grades are determined using the following scale:

- 93 - 100 = A
- 90 - 92.99 = A-
- 87 – 89.99 = B+
- 83 – 86.99 = B
- 80 – 82.99 = B-
- 77 – 79.99 = C+
- 73 – 76.99 = C
- 70 – 72.99 = C-
- 67 – 69.99 = D+
- 63 – 66.99 = D
- 60 – 62.99 = D-
- Below 60 = F

Extra Credit: Any student who forwards me an e-mail confirmation or screenshot showing they completed the TRACE survey at the end of the semester will receive a +1% on their final course grade. Do not forward or screenshot the actual survey.
Course Schedule:

INTRODUCTION
January 13th: Introduction, syllabus, explanation of assignments, book review assignments
January 16th: More of above plus The House I Live In
January 20th: The House I Live In

HISTORY, BACKGROUND, LEGAL ISSUES, & THE DEATH PENALTY
January 23rd: Clear et al chpt 1
January 27th: Clear et al chpt 2 & Goffman’s “On the Run” (posted to Blackboard)
January 30th: Clear et al chpt 11
February 3rd: Quiz 1

JAILS, PROBATION, REENTRY & COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
February 6th: Clear et al chpt 4 & Stillman’s “Taken” (posted to Blackboard)
February 10th: Clear et al chpt 5
February 13th: Clear et al chpt 10 & Stillman’s “Get out of Jail, Inc.” (posted to Blackboard)
February 17th: Clear et al chpt 3
February 20th: Field Trip to Suffolk County Jail (meet at NEU inbound green line by 8:30 AM)
February 24th: Prison Riot documentary
February 27th: Quiz 2

PRISONS, SPECIAL POPULATIONS, DRUGS, & ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION
March 3rd: Clear et al chpt 6 & Toobin’s “This is my Jail” (posted to Blackboard)
March 6th: Clear et al chpt 7
March 17th: Solitary Nation documentary
March 20th: Clear et al chpt 8
March 24th: Clear et al chpt 9
March 27th: Clear et al chpt 12 & Gonnerman’s “Before the Law” (posted to Blackboard)
March 31st: Prison Terminal documentary
April 3rd: Guest Speaker (date TBD)
April 7th: Specter’s “Getting a Fix” & Aviv’s “Prescription for Disaster” (posted to Blackboard)
April 10th: Hungry Heart documentary
April 14th: Paumgarten’s “Berlin Nights” & Sacks’ “Altered States” (posted on Blackboard)
April 17th: Quiz 3
April 21st: Book review due in class and class feedback/evaluation