

Department of Sociology, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ

Community Corrections - SOC403-80 (Online)

Syllabus – Winter 2010 (Dec 26th 2009 to Jan 15th 2010)

Dept. Secretary

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Office Hours

Meeting times in person or phone can be scheduled by email appointment. I respond to my emails very quickly during weekdays – my turnaround time is usually less than 24 hours on weekdays.

Course Prerequisites

SOC 101 Principles of Sociology

Required Text

Community-Based Corrections (7th Edition) Leanne Fiftal Alarid, Paul Cromwell, Rolando V. Del Carmen
ISBN-13: 978-0-495-09482-1 ISBN-10: 0-495-09482-X

You can buy the text as a hard copy (about \$106.99) or as an e-book (approx. \$59.49) from www.ichapters.com.

Other Requirements

- a. Use of College Email is required.
- b. This being an online course, Blackboard will be used for posting course lectures, announcements, submitting assignments, tests and all forms of communication. You should log in to Blackboard everyday to access course materials and complete the course requirements. I will be using, video, audio, PowerPoint, MS-Word, Adobe PDF file formats. Please make sure you have the necessary software on your computers.
- c. More details about BlackBoard and online courses were sent to you though the 'Welcome Letter' and previous emails. I have also attached the same at the end of the syllabus. If you have any doubts and concerns please email me.
- d. Since this course is in a three week format you have to realize that you are undergoing a crash course of what is usually done over 16 weeks. Plan your time accordingly.
- e. You are expected to read the assigned text book and participate in all activities of the class. All work MUST be submitted as per the deadlines. No late submissions will be accepted.
- f. Your submission towards discussion board participation will be counted as attendance. Standard WPU attendance policy applies.

Course Description

This course focuses on the analysis of theories and practices of parole and probation. It is also concerned with the current trend toward diversion of offenders from the criminal justice system and special community programs.

Course Objectives

The major goal of this course is to provide a comprehensive, logically organized overview of all the alternatives to institutionalization. Specific objectives are: - To provide a sociological analysis of the reasons for the development of community based corrections; - To provide students with an understanding of the different types of community corrections; - To explain the concept and provide examples of intermediate sanctions; - To describe the importance of and strategies for seeking community acceptance; - To provide an understanding of the legal basis for probation and describe the antecedents of present-day probation; - To enable students to distinguish between the granting of probation and the administration of probation; - To identify and describe the functions and functionaries of parole; - To provide students with the historical origins of parole and probation; - To provide students with the skills needed to design and carry out research on various policies relating to and various programs within community based corrections.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Delineate the different forms that community corrections may take
- Provide assessment, orally and in written form of the various community based programs that provide services for the offender in the community
- Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of gaining community support for community-based programs by providing strategies for overcoming resistance.
- Identify and describe tasks that parole and probation officers perform in working with offenders in the community.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the history of parole and probation and show how that history impacts on present-day treatment of the offender in the community
- Design a research project for carrying out research on a particular policy or program related to treatment of the offender in the community

Topical Outline, Deadlines, Assignments & Exams

Day of Week	Date	Required Readings	Exams	Discussion board	Project
		All from Text Book & materials on BB under this header.	(10 points each)	(Approx. 2.85 points each)	(20 points total)
26-Dec-09	Saturday	Course Orientation- No reading, Introduce yourself on Discussion Board			
27-Dec-09	Sunday	No Readings		No Submissions	
28-Dec-09	Monday	Chapter-1		DB-1	
29-Dec-09	Tuesday	Chapter-2		DB-2	
30-Dec-09	Wednesday	Chapter-3	Exam-1	DB-3	
31-Dec-09	Thursday	Chapter-4		DB-4	
1-Jan-10	Friday	No Readings		No Submissions	
2-Jan-10	Saturday	Chapter-5		DB-5	Paper Outline Due
3-Jan-10	Sunday	No Readings		No Submissions	
4-Jan-10	Monday	Chapter-6		DB-6	
5-Jan-10	Tuesday	Chapter-7	Exam-2	DB-7	
6-Jan-10	Wednesday	Chapter-8		DB-8	
7-Jan-10	Thursday	Chapter-9		DB-9	
8-Jan-10	Friday	Chapter-10	Exam-3	DB-10	Draft Paper Due
9-Jan-10	Saturday	No Readings		No Submissions	
10-Jan-10	Sunday	No Readings		No Submissions	
11-Jan-10	Monday	Chapter-11		DB-11	
12-Jan-10	Tuesday	Chapter-12		DB-12	
13-Jan-10	Wednesday	Chapter-13		DB-13	
14-Jan-10	Thursday	Chapter-14	Exam-4	DB-14	
15-Jan-10	Friday	Last Day, work on revisions of project paper			Final Submit Due
			40 points	40 points	20 points

Changes in the syllabus, course format, deadlines, grading, assignments etc. possible at the discretion of the instructor.

Here is what you will do:

- You will read the textbook chapters as scheduled above. You will also access and read/watch/listen to all material provided in the folder for each chapter in Course Documents as per the same schedule.
- You will participate and respond to the discussion board posts as scheduled. You have one each day except on weekends. For Discussion Boards provide thoughtful ideas and comments from your end (2points). You will also need to respond to at least one post of another student (1 point). Your answers should be substantial and should include examples and perspectives from the text with your own interpretation of the material. I will be grading this very stringently so best effort is required to get good marks.
- Take the exams as scheduled. The exams will not be cumulative. Exam-1 (10 points) will include chapters 1 to 3, Exam-2 (10 points) will include chapters 4-7, Exam-3 (10 points) will include chapters 8-10 and Exam-4 (10 points) will include chapters 11-13. Exams will be available on all days till the deadlines mentioned above. You can take the exam earlier to the deadline if you like But once you enter the exam you will have to complete it within the stipulated time (the time limit will be anywhere between 60-120 minutes and will vary by the exam). You will be allowed only one attempt – please be careful with your exam! There will be

multiple choice questions, fill in the blanks, true/false and some essays. Please be aware that you will not be able to cut and paste your answers into the exam.

- d. For your final paper (20 points) you will design a research project and carry out research on various policies relating to and various programs within community based corrections. You will undertake this research by accessing information available on the worldwide web and by reading peer-reviewed research articles. I will provide more details in a separate document. You will need to submit parts of your paper and the final paper as scheduled. I will provide feedback on that to help you improve your paper. Non-submission of various parts will definitely result in a reduced grade.

Grading

There will something due almost everyday. Here is a break-up of the Total 100 points: Exams (4 x 10 = 40 points), Discussion posts (3 x 13 = 39 points + 1 bonus point for regular participation), Project (1 x 20 = 20 points).

The grading scale is as follows: A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 60-66, F<60

Refer to the Student Handbook for information about various policies and support services, especially:

	pg. no.
Services for Students with Disabilities	38
Academic Integrity Policies	46
Attendance	53
Complaints About Grades	53
Writing Center	6

The online version of the student handbook can be found at:

http://ww2.wpunj.edu/enrolled/pdf/StudentHandbook07_08.pdf

To get started with effectively using library resources, visit:

<http://www.wpunj.edu/library/usered/tutorials.shtml>

How to Access Blackboard:

To log on to Bb point your web browser to <http://bb.wpunj.edu> and click the Login button in the upper left. Then enter your username and password in the spaces provided and click login again -- you'll find your course Bb sites listed on the right.

Some things to be aware of as you work with Blackboard:

1. You probably won't find all your courses listed; the only ones that will appear are those that have been activated by the professor teaching the course. Professors who don't use Blackboard will not activate their courses.
2. Your username is comprised of your lastname and firstinitial, usually appended with a numeral. If you don't know your WPUNJ system username password you can use the Username lookup link at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or go to it directly at https://webapps.wpunj.edu/misc/username_lookup/username_lookup.cfm
3. If you are already logged in to the WPUNJ system through WPCconnect you won't have to re-enter your username and password -- just click the first login button.
4. Extensive Bb help, including a number of dynamic animations, can be found at <http://www.wpunj.edu/irt/teambb/student/>
5. You can always obtain Bb help by using the Problem Report form at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or by going to it directly at: <http://euphrates.wpunj.edu/bb/sc/> .

WPUNJ Student Email:

To log on to WPUNJ Student Email point your web browser to <http://student.wpunj.edu> and enter your username, then RETURN. A dialogue box will pop up, into when you re-enter your username and password, then RETURN.

Some things to be aware of as you work with Student email:

1. Blackboard courses will use student email; third-party email addresses will not work on Bb.
2. If you are already logged in to the WPUNJ system through WPCconnect you won't have to re-enter your username and password -- just click the Email tab.

Good luck and have fun in the course!