

Adams State College Extended Studies
SYLLABUS
Sociology 447: Correctional Systems

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Course Credit: 3 semester hours

Prerequisites: Sociology 201, Introduction to Sociology; Sociology 346, Criminal Justice

Required Text Books:

Bartollas, C. (2002). *Invitation to corrections*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN: 0205314120
Herivel.T. & Wright, P., Eds. (2003). *Prison nation: The warehousing of America's poor*. Oxford, UK: Routledge. ISBN: 0415935385

Course Description:

This course will focus on corrections as one of the components of the American criminal justice system and its operation. The philosophical and historical underpinnings of punishment and corrections will be analyzed and compared (e.g., punishment vs. rehabilitation.)

Course Objectives:

Objective 1. To understand how the operating philosophies of correctional systems are put into practice.

Objective 2. To explore the variety of responses reflected in correctional systems; fines, probation, institutionalization, parole, and the death penalty.

Objective 3. To develop a critical consciousness in terms of the various purposes and effectiveness of correctional systems agencies (e.g., resocialization, punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation, incapacitation, retribution, restitution and revenge.)

Course Requirements:

1. **Reading Summaries.** A two-page, typed, double-spaced summary for each lesson assignment. The summary should demonstrate that you read the

assignment, and have a working understanding of the material, and can address the critical questions raised in each Lesson. Each of the 16 summaries will be worth six points, for a total of 96 points.

2. **Case Study.** Develop a case study about someone who is or has been involved in correctional systems as an “offender” or someone who is employed in the system, such as a parole officer. This requires research about the subject area (such as parole), and an in-depth interview with the person and possibly with other people who are in some way, personally or professionally, involved with the person. A case study requires details and texture that paints a picture that helps to explain the person’s history, motivations, attitudes, beliefs, onions, and aspirations. The case study should be at least four doubled-spaced pages and is worth 60 points.
3. **Interviews.** Develop a structured interview questionnaire and interview three people about their attitudes about the death penalty. The questions should at least include, “Do you believe in the death penalty?” and “Why?” For those who believe in the death penalty, relate to them the facts about the death penalty, especially that it has been shown that the death penalty is not a deterrent, and then ask them if they still believe in it, and why. This ‘probe question’ gets at people’s fears and irrational beliefs as they relate to “offenders” and the role of correctional systems. The paper can include field notes about the setting and the person being interviewed. The paper should be at least six pages in length, and is worth 72 points.
4. **Mid-term exam.** A proctored mid-term exam will be administered through the Extended Studies Department. 30 points.
5. **Final exam.** A proctored final exam will be administered through the Extended Studies Department. 42 points.
6. **Extra Credit.** 30 points.

Extra Credit

Your choice. 30 points

Grading Scale

270-300	A
240-269	B
210-239	C
180-209	D
179 or less	F