Correctional Systems
Rutgers University
Summer 2012

Dr. Matthew J. Sheridan
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Office Hours by appointment
6:00-9:40 in Tillet Hall, Room 207 on Livingston Campus
May 29 to July 6


The students will focus on circumstances in confinement and during re-entry. Students will understand basic theoretical constructs about the correctional experience, its literature, subfields, and role as a field of study within criminology, criminal justice and corrections. The student will be exposed to historical and emerging developments in the correctional field with special emphasis on evidence based practices. The student will explore correctional systems to understand strengths, weaknesses, limitations, and potential pitfalls. Special attention is paid to the social environment of prison as a change agent that must be addressed upon re-entry. Failure to effect change is viewed as contributing to failure and additional victimization in society. This course also deals with analysis of contemporary programs and trends in the criminal justice system's response to ex-convicts, their families, victims and society.

Suggested Reading for the Semester:


Convict Criminology, Stephen Richards and Jeffrey Ian Ross

The following dates and assignments are a guide which we will adhere to as closely as possible. What will be most important is for you to keep current with the assignments. The syllabus may change as needed.

Week One May 29 and 31 A Revisionist History of Correctional Processes

Assignment: The Dilemmas of Corrections Part 1
Prisons: American prisons at the beginning of the Twenty-first century pp 1-16
Week Two: June 5 and June 7  A Revisionist History of Correctional Processes

Assignment: The Dilemmas of Corrections Part 1
Understanding Prison policy and population trends pp 63-120

Week Three: June 12 and June 14 A Revisionist History of Correctional Processes
Assignment: The Dilemmas of Corrections Part 1
Prisons: Prison suicide and prisoner coping

June 12 Review for Mid term, Ethical Considerations
June 14 Mid term examination
One half of journals due

Week Four: June 19 and June 21 Community Justice Programs/alternative systems
Assignment: The Dilemmas of Corrections Part 2
Prisons: Adult Correctional treatment pp. 361-426

Week Five: June 28 and June 30  Visit to Jail, Alternative systems
Assignment: The Dilemmas of Corrections Part 2
Interpersonal Violence and social order in Prisons pp. 205-282

Week Six: July 3 Future Directions and Diversion
Assignment: The Dilemmas of Corrections Part 4
Prisons: Parole and prisoner re-entry in the United States pp. 479-530

July 3 Review for final
Second half of journal entries due
Research paper due

July 5 Final Exam, Final journal entry

Other Topics: The Prisoner as Victim: Holmsburg, Alabama, California, Arkansas, Washington & Oregon

Evaluation

1. Reaction Journal 15 entries (15 points).
Your journal is an opportunity for you to comment on class discussions, readings, news, comments made by others that have something to do with corrections. Entries should be no more than one paragraph long except for the first and the final entry.
The final entry: review all previous entries and react to them and to your experiences this semester
2. Book Critique – Due week (25 pts).
Choose one work from the Autobiographies. Acceptable titles will be identified in class. This should be a critical analysis discussing the impact of prisonization as well as counseling needs and process.

3. Application - Research Paper – (Due week 5) Topic to be discussed 1st class (20 pts)
Provide an email address for contact about research paper

4. Mid term and Final Examination – 40 points

Selected Bibliography


Maden, T. Women, Prisons, and Psychiatry: Mental Disorder Behind Bars


Masters, R.  Counseling Criminal Justice Offenders ISBN 0803955324


Smith, B.  The Legal Aspects of Counseling:  Social Problems, Psychology, and Criminal Justice. ASIN 0894210246 out of print

Walsh, A.  Understanding Assessing, and Counseling the Criminal Justice Client ASIN0534086527 out of print


Watts, T.  Experiences and Problems of Women in Prison/P3002  1990 out of stock

Williams, B.  Counseling in Criminal Justice (Counseling in Context) ISBN0335192408

Zaplin, R.  Female Offenders:  Critical Perspectives and Effective Interventions 1998

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Term Paper Grading Rubric
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<th>Resources</th>
<th>APA Format</th>
<th>Introduction and Conclusion</th>
<th>Body of the Paper</th>
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| □ Used only 2 total sources of any combination | □ No Title Page  
□ Double spaced  
□ 0 in-text citations properly formatted  
□ NO Header on each page  
□ No proper Works cited page | □ Thesis statement not answered within paper  
□ Includes some background information | □ Each paragraph has a single, controlling idea presented in the topic sentence  
□ Each paragraph has a single, controlling idea presented in the topic sentence  
□ Sentences are in a logical order |
| □ Used only 3 total sources of any combination | □ Title Page not in proper format  
□ Double spaced  
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□ Header on each page  
□ Works cited page | □ Thesis statement is answered within paper  
□ Creates reader interest  
□ Includes some background information | □ Each paragraph has a smooth transition and a clear flow of ideas  
□ Sentences in logical order  
□ Examples & quotes used to support & develop topic sentence |
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□ Double spaced  
□ 6 in-text citations properly formatted  
□ Header on each page (name or page number)  
□ Works cited page | □ Thesis statement is answered within paper  
□ Creates reader interest  
□ Includes important background information about the topic  
□ Demonstrates and understanding of the topic | □ Each paragraph has a smooth transition and a clear flow of ideas  
□ Sentences in logical order  
□ Examples & quotes used to support & develop topic sentence |
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□ Header each page (name & page number)  
□ Works cited page completely in MLA or APA format | | |