

**Reintegration and Recidivism:  
Challenges Faced by Released Inmates**

Spring 2015

January 21, 2015 to May 4, 2015

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**Textbook:** It's About Time: America's Imprisonment Binge 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Austin, James, Irwin, John.

**Course Description:**

Prison is hard, but for some, returning to society is harder. Released inmates must build new lives, often beginning with only a garbage bag of their stored belongings. They face online job applications that are programmed to disqualify when a "yes" is given to the felony question, and interviews that start going badly before they even begin. The prevailing attitude is "not in my backyard". The released inmates are already there, though, and their success or failure joining mainstream society has consequences throughout the community.

This course will examine in detail the many factors that determine that success or failure, and the role of legal supervision in this process. In addition to obstacles to employment, major factors include maintaining a drug and alcohol free lifestyle, reconnecting with family members, job training and further education, dealing with police confrontation, social life and generally becoming familiar with the ways of mainstream society where the etiquette and customs that earned respect on the street tend not to earn the same reactions.

**Course Objectives:**

The objective of this course will be to develop an understanding of the dynamics behind the "revolving door" of prison and to discuss the methods of legal supervision that are showing promise in reducing recidivism. After successful completion of the course, the student should:

- (A) have an accurate, detailed, understanding of identifying causes which lead to recidivism
- (B) appreciate and understand the value of learning offender perspective  
And their ability for rehabilitation
- (C) to be able to clearly distinguish between theory and reality of various research regarding recidivism
- (D) understand the impact of current issues, challenges and trends have on recidivism and reintegration
- (E) to be able to understand the various agencies involved in community supervision and the state laws which govern them

**Final Assessment of Grades will be as follows:**

50% Exams  
30% Quizzes

20% Class Participation

**Class Participation** is weighted in this course because it aids in the student's ability to understand the impact of prison reentry in our society. Also, an interactive approach aids in the student's learning and creates an environment where an exchange of ideas is valued.

Included in the class participation grade is an oral presentation of one chapter from the textbook. You will be assigned a specific chapter to present to the class. The oral presentation needs to be accompanied by a typed hand-out, which provides an in-depth review of the chapter's major themes and content. This outline will enhance your presentation and be part of your grade.

Final exam Schedule can be found at: <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu>. Don't Cheat Don't Plagiarize.

**There will be numerous guest speakers, and a planned trip to New Jersey State Prison, "The Wall", Trenton, NJ.**

**Overview of Class Schedule, which is subject to change depending on the progress of the class:**

Class 1: January 21, 2015

Discussion of course syllabus; students' introduction; Overview: Re-entry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges and opportunities

Class 2: January 26, 2015: Chapter 1: America's Growing Correctional Industrial Complex

Class 3: January 28, 2015

Chapter 1: The Politics of the Fear of Crime

Class 4: February 2, 2015: Chapter 2: Who Goes to Prison

Class 5: February 4, 2015

Chapter 3 : The Imprisonment of Children and Women

Class 6: February 9, 2015: Chapter 4: Doing Time; class presentation

Class 7: February 11, 2015

Chapter 5: The Correctional Treatment Industrial Complex; class presentation

Class 8: February 16, 2015

Chapter 6: The Rise and Fall of the Supermax, class presentation

Class 9: February 18, 2015 Chapter 7: Private Prisons- Can They Do It Better?; class presentation

Class 10: February 23, 2015- Class presentation; ethical dilemma's

Class 11: February 25, 2015

Chapter 8: Release, Recidivism, and Reentry; class presentation

Class 12: March 2, 2015

Chapter 9: Special Topics; class presentation

Class 13: March 4, 2015

Men's network relationships and reentry experiences; hand outs will be supplied; class presentation

March 9, 2015: When troubled offenders come home: removing barriers to reentry for offenders with mental illness; class presentation

Class 14: March 11, 2015

Chapter 10: Unlocking America; class presentation

SPRING BREAK NO CLASS MARCH 14, 2015 to March 23, 2015

Class 15: March 23, 2015

Prison, Reentry, and offender's perceptions of correctional punishments; class presentation

Class 16: March 25, 2015: Evaluating a juvenile reentry program: An elusive target; class presentation

Class 17 March 30, 2015

What works here? A methodology for evaluating local reentry programming; class presentation

Class 18: April 1, 2015: Lessons on prisoner reentry program implementation from San Diego SB 618 experience; class presentation

April 6, 2015 and April 8, 2015

Class 19: Coming to a Crossroads: A critical look at the sustainability of the prisoner reentry movement; class presentation -Class 20: Probation, Parole, ISP, Supervised Community Release

April 13, 2015 and April 15, 2015

Class 20: Careers in Corrections and Supervised Release

Class 21: Programs available in Prison and County Jail: Do They Work in preventing Recidivism?

April 20, 2015 and April 22, 2015

Constitutional Supreme Court Cases and Prisoner Rights

April 27, 2015 and April 29, 2015

Inmate Subculture/Gangs within Prison

May 4, 2015- Final Review----**May 11, 2015 FINAL EXAM** (<http://finalexams.rutgers.edu>)