

**Prisons and Prisoners**  
01:202:203:B1  
Monday through Thursday  
10:10 AM to 12:05 PM  
**Murray Hall, Room 111**

Robert T. Szejner, Ed.D.  
Instructor  
Program in Criminal Justice

E-mail: [szejner@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:szejner@rci.rutgers.edu)  
Office Telephone: (848) 445-7218  
Office: Murray Hall, Room 111, College Avenue Campus  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

**Program in Criminal Justice**  
**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

**Learning Goals:**  
**A Statement of Principles**

The Program Committee for the Program in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in New Brunswick has adopted a series of learning goals for students who complete the major. These goals represent the consensus of the faculty regarding the concepts a student should grasp and the skills a student should acquire in the course of completing the major. These goals guide the choices faculty make about the structure of the curriculum and the requirements for our majors. Moreover, they guide faculty and instructors preparing course material and teaching courses.

The Program in Criminal Justice will provide students with a rich understanding of crime and criminal justice in the United States and abroad through an interdisciplinary approach that blends a strong liberal arts educational experience with pre-professional instruction in the field of criminal justice. Graduates of the program will be well-informed citizens on the topic of crime and justice, and qualified for graduate study or for employment as practitioners in a variety of legal, policymaking, and law enforcement fields.

Criminal justice majors graduating from a research university should be able to use critical thinking, factual inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to individual and group behavior. In addition, students should have an understanding of the legal, political and policymaking processes that affect criminal justice systems in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Finally, students should be familiar with the institutional structures and latest developments in the field in order to engage in meaningful debate about current public policy issues.

## Learning Goals for Criminal Justice Majors

### 1. **Competence:**

- a.) **Theory.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand and be able to articulate, both orally and in writing, the core theoretical concepts that form the foundation of analysis and research in criminology and criminal justice today. Core concepts are derived from explanations of crime from a variety of perspectives, including biogenic, psychological, and sociological approaches. There are myriad theories of crime that are informed by these perspectives, including, classical, control, critical, ecology, labeling, learning, strain, and trait-based approaches. Theoretical literacy should extend to multicultural and international understanding.
- b.) **Institutions.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand the special role of three types of institutions: Police, Corrections, and Courts. In addition, students should know how institutional forms vary across jurisdictions and how these institutions interact with and influence each other.
- c.) **Research Methods.** Students who complete the criminal justice major should be familiar with the tools, techniques, and data sources necessary for empirical analysis. Students should understand the various ways that empirical analysis is used in the scientific approach: for description, for developing, and for testing theories. They should be able to analyze data using computer applications and should be familiar with basic statistical techniques and regression analysis. They should be able to read and assess research from a wide range of sources, including general interest, academic, and government publications.

### 2. **Critical Thinking:** Upon completion of the major students should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and quantitative tools to analyze and research real world problems, and evaluate alternative policy proposals on a range of criminal justice issues, from micro-level analyses relevant to particular cases to management concerns to macro-level analyses of legislative and other broad-scale policies. Accomplishment of this goal will require that students can apply their literacy and numeracy skills to different institutional structures, within the U.S. and across countries.

### 3. **Scholarship:** Qualified majors should have an opportunity through such avenues as advanced coursework, internships, and faculty interactions to conduct independent research on matters of central relevance to the field of criminal justice.

## SYLLABUS

### PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

The course intends to survey the expanding boundaries of corrections, punishment, and social control. By emphasizing a critical approach to the criminal justice apparatus, prevailing myths and ideologies shall be confronted, allowing students to understand how key social forces (i.e., economics, politics, morality, and technology) shape the use of prisons in contemporary society. Likewise, considerable attention is directed at the internal workings of corrections, including various institutional problems and issues (e.g., violence, the death penalty, the war on drugs, racism and classism). The general goal of this class is to foster an intelligent and sophisticated view of corrections and its many contradictions.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

- #1. *Corrections: A Critical Approach, 3rd ed.* (2011), by Welch, Michael. London: Routledge.
- #2. *Ironies of Imprisonment.* (2005), by Welch, Michael. Thousand Oaks, CA. Sage Publications.

### EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:

Three Exams:	30 points each	90 points
Five Quizzes:	2 points each	10 points
Total Semester Points:		100 points

Exams consist of 60 multiple-choice items (1/ 2 points each) covering both lecture and reading assignments.

Quizzes will be unannounced and cover topics in assigned reading assignments.

There are **NO** make up dates for **ANY** quiz under **ANY** circumstance.

There are **NO** extra credit assignments.

There are **NO** discretionary grades in this course

## Final Grades:

90 - 100%	A
87 – 89%	B+
80 – 86%	B
77 – 79%	C+
70 – 76%	C
60 – 69%	D
00 – 59%	F

## This syllabus is subject to change

May 26	Course introduction.
May 27	<i>Ironies of Imprisonment</i> . Chapters 1 & 2. The Penitentiary
May 28	<i>Corrections: A Critical Approach</i> . Chapter 1. Introduction
June 1	<i>Corrections: A Critical Approach</i> . Chapter 2. Social History of Punishment and Prisoners.
June 2	<i>Corrections: A Critical Approach</i> . Chapter 3. America's Penal Past and Correctional Experience
June 3	<i>Corrections: A Critical Approach</i> . Chapter 4. Theoretical Penology. Traditional & Critical Perspectives on Corrections Course Section Review
June 4	<b>Examination #1</b>
June 8	<i>Ironies of Imprisonment</i> . Chapter 4: War on Drugs and Just War Theory. <i>Corrections: Critical Approach</i> : Chapter 16.
June 9	<i>Ironies of Imprisonment</i> . Chapter 5: Health Care Crisis Behind Bars. <i>Corrections: Critical Approach</i> : Chapter 16.
June 10	<i>Corrections: A Critical Approach</i> . Chapter 6: Women in Corrections
June 11	<i>Corrections: A Critical Approach</i> . Chapter 8: Minorities in Corrections.
June 15 & 16	<i>Corrections: A Critical Approach</i> . Chapter 15: The Corrections Industry.

June 17	<i>Ironies of Imprisonment</i> . Chapter 6: Reproducing Prison Violence. <i>Corrections: Critical Approach</i> : Chapter 9: Assault and Riots. Course Section Review.
June 18	<b>Examination 2</b>
June 22 & 23	<i>Ironies of Imprisonment</i> . Chapter 7: Ironies of Capital Punishment.
June 24 & 25	<i>Ironies of Imprisonment</i> . Chapter 8: War on Terror and the Misuse of Detention.
June 29 & 30	Current and Future Trends in Corrections.
July 1	Class review
July 2	<b>Final Exam</b> . Last day of class

Final Examination Tentative: Thursday, July 2, 2013, 10:15 AM to 12:00 NOON Murray Hall 111.

Students unable to attend **ANY** examination on the assigned date, for **ANY** reason, are to notify the instructor **PRIOR** to the examination date to make arrangements for a make up examination.

Nota Bene: Tape recording lectures is strictly prohibited, along with note-taking for commercial purposes. This syllabus is subject to change.

Students are encouraged to utilize any and all resources available to assist them with this course through the Rutgers University Learning Resource Center. Information regarding the services available can be accessed at: <http://lrc.rutgers.edu>

Students will be held to the academic integrity standards of this institution. Refer to: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity> .