

**Eastern Illinois University**  
**SOC/CRM 4790 - 001**  
**The Correctional Process: A Sociological Analysis**  
Fall 2020  
8/24/2020 – 12/18/2020  
ONLINE

**Instructor:** Mari Kita

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Office Hours: Office Hours: MW 9:00 – 10:00 AM & 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM via Microsoft Teams  
(Make an appointment [here](#)) or D2L Chat.

**Course Description:** Why do we punish people? How? Where? What is the most effective way of rehabilitating criminals? Is that even possible? From the age of the code of Hammurabi, people have been asking these questions for centuries. The answers may vary depending on the politics, culture, and the history of each society. Currently, the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. We imprison more people than Russia or China does. Why do we rely so much on incarceration as a method of punishment? This course explores this question along with some other fundamental questions about punishment in an effort to understand the correctional system in the United States. In other words, students are expected to learn why, how, where, and who we punish and rehabilitate in American society as well as the consequences of such penal practices, which have an enormous impact on the American families and communities. At the end of the class, students should not only be able to critically analyze the "ineffective or failing" American correctional system but also how its problems are deeply rooted in the politics, history, culture, and social structure of the United States.

**Required Textbook:**

Siegal, Larry J. and Clemens Bartollas. 2017. *Corrections Today*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Additional readings will be provided on D2L

**Method of Instruction:** This class is offered entirely in an online format. Students can access to the class material via the Internet any time from any location. However, students also have responsibilities to participate in class on a regular basis just as much as they do in a course conducted in a regular classroom. Not only interacting with the instructor but also with other students will be highly valued in this class. Students should make the best use of e-mail and discussion forums to communicate with each other and ask questions to the instructor. Students are also expected to do as much work as they do in a regular face-to-face class. Although powerpoint slides will be posted on D2L to enhance students' understanding of the chapters, it is critical for students to do their own reading as the textbook will be the primary source of exam questions.

**Examinations and Assignments:**

**Exams** – There will be three exams, two mid-terms and one final, which will consist of

multiple-choice questions. Tests will be **closed-book** and will not be cumulative as they will cover each sections of the course that they follow. If students are unable to take the test on the scheduled dates, accommodations will be made for those with legitimate excuses (e.g. sickness, quarantine, etc.).

**Weekly Discussion Forum Posts** – The instructor will post two sets of questions on the discussion forum each week (posted on D2L every Monday). Students will answer these questions having done the assigned reading for each week. Each post must be at least a few paragraphs long and the responses are due **every Wednesday and Friday at 11:59 PM**. The objective of having discussion forum posts is to improve students' understanding of reading materials and facilitate a discussion among students. Each week, there should be various responses to the instructor's questions as a result of everyone's contribution to the discussion forum. Students are recommended to write a draft in Word and proofread it before they make a post on the forum.

**Research Paper** – Students will identify an issue within the American correctional system that has been discussed in class and write policy recommendations to address the identified problem. More details will be available later in the semester.

#### **Course Communication:**

Email – Make sure to check your email regularly, as all course communication will be done remotely due to COVID-19. You can email me via Panthermail or D2L. Make sure that all emails are professional and include specific information about your request for assistance. If you are using Panthermail to communicate with me, please include **the course and section number** in the subject line of the email (e.g. SOC/CRM 4790-001). I strive to answer all emails within 24 hours during the business week. If you have a question about an assignment, I strongly encourage you to email me at least 24 hours prior to the due date.

Online Meeting – If you wish to speak with me directly, you can make an appointment during my office hours to have a virtual meeting. Schedule your appointment [here](#).

**Grade Postings/Concerns:** All grades will be posted on D2L. If a student has a concern about a grade or feels that there is a discrepancy between the posted grade and the grade awarded, the instructor must be contacted via email within one week of when the grade was posted. Grade concerns will not be considered after one week has passed.

**Assignment Submission:** All assignments must be submitted in **Microsoft Word or PDF documents** via D2L. If you use alternatives to Microsoft Word such as Google Docs, OpenOffice, or Pages, etc., be sure to convert your file to a MS Word or PDF document before uploading. Otherwise, the layout setting of your paper may be lost. Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments as the D2L server may become busy and prevent you from uploading your work. Back up your work and have a "Plan B" if your computer malfunctions. Computer labs are located throughout campus if you need Microsoft Word or have issues with your personal computer. Late papers will be penalized ½ of a letter grade for each day late, including the day on which they are due.

**Course Schedule:**

Week	Topics	Reading Assignments	Examinations and Assignments
Week 1: 8/24 -	<p><b>Why Do We Punish?: The Correctional System</b></p> <p>Goals and philosophies of punishment The history of corrections The purpose and function of the corrections system today</p>	<p>Chapter 1</p> <p><i>Film: The Confessions</i> <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/the-confessions/">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/the-confessions/</a></p>	<p><b>Discussion forum post #1 due on 8/26</b></p> <p><b>Discussion forum post #2 due on 8/28</b></p>
Week 2: 8/31 -	<p><b>How Do We Punish?: Sentencing and the Correctional Process</b></p> <p>Actors in sentencing Imposing the sentence How people are sentenced</p>	<p>Chapter 2</p> <p><i>Go to Trial: Crash the Justice System</i> by Michelle Alexander <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/11/opinion/sunday/go-to-trial-crash-the-justice-system.html?_r=0">http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/11/opinion/sunday/go-to-trial-crash-the-justice-system.html?_r=0</a></p>	<p><b>Discussion forum post #3 due on 9/2</b></p> <p><b>Discussion forum post #4 due on 9/4</b></p>
Week 3: 9/9 -	<p><b>How Do We Correct in the Community?</b></p> <p>Diversion and probation Hawaii’s Hope Probation</p>	<p>Chapter 3</p>	<p><b>Discussion forum post #5 due on 9/9</b></p> <p><b>Discussion forum post #6 due on 9/9</b></p>
Week 4: 9/14 -	<p><b>How Do We Correct in the Community?</b></p> <p>Intermediate sanctions Specialized Courts Restorative justice</p>	<p>Chapter 4</p>	<p><b>Discussion forum post #7 due on 9/16</b></p> <p><b>Discussion forum post #8 due on 9/18</b></p>
Week 5: 9/21 -	<p><b>Where Do We Punish?: Prisons</b></p> <p>To what extent do prisons mirror the larger society? Inmate populations Types of correctional facilities</p>	<p>Chapter 6</p> <p>Archibold, Randal C. 2012. Inmates’ Lament: ‘Rather Be Dead than Here’. Retrieved from</p>	<p><b>Discussion forum post #9 due on 9/23</b></p> <p><b><u>First Midterm</u> on</b></p>

	What prisons look like Correctional administration	<a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/14/world/americas/in-latin-america-prisons-condemned-to-crisis.html?src=recg&amp;_r=0">http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/14/world/americas/in-latin-america-prisons-condemned-to-crisis.html?src=recg&amp;_r=0</a>	<b>Friday, 9/25</b>
Week 6: 9/28 -	<b>Where Do We Punish?: Prisons</b>  Mass incarceration War on Drugs Impact of mass incarceration on Black communities	Chapter 6 Cont.  Wacquant, Loïc. 2001. "Deadly Symbiosis: When Ghetto and Prison Meet and Mesh." Pp. 82–120 in <i>Mass Imprisonment: Social Causes and Consequences</i> , edited by David Garland. London, UK: Sage Publication Ltd.  <i>Film: The House I Live In</i>	<b>Discussion forum post #10 due on 9/30</b>  <b>Discussion forum post #11 due on 10/2</b>
Week 7: 10/5 -	<b>The Prison Experience: Males</b>  Entering prison Traditional male inmate culture Contemporary male prison culture Expressions of prison violence Guarding the prison	Chapter 7  Kaiser, David and Lovisa Sannow. 2010. <i>The Rape of American Prisoners</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2010/mar/11/the-rape-of-american-prisoners/?pagination=false">http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2010/mar/11/the-rape-of-american-prisoners/?pagination=false</a>	<b>Discussion forum post #12 due on 10/7</b>  <b>Discussion forum post #13 due on 10/9</b>
Week 8: 10/12 -	<b>The Prison Experience: Females</b>  Prison for women: History and characteristics Rise of women's imprisonment Doing time Special issues in the incarceration of women	Chapter 7 Cont.  Chesney-Lind, Meda, and Jocelyn M. Pollock. 1995. "Women's Prisons: Equality with a Vengeance." Pp. 155–76 in <i>Women, Law, and Social Control</i> , edited by Alida V. Merlo and Jocelyn M. Pollock. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.	<b>Discussion forum post #14 due on 10/14</b>
Week 9: 10/19 -	<b>The Prison Experience: Special Prison Populations</b>	Chapter 11  <i>Film: The New Asylums</i>	<b>Discussion forum post #15 due on 10/21</b>

			<b>Discussion forum post #16 due on 10/23</b>
Week 10: 10/26 -	<b>The Prison Experience: The Juvenile Offender</b>  History of the juvenile justice system Contemporary juvenile justice system Juvenile corrections in the community Juvenile institutions today Juvenile aftercare and reentry Waiver to the adult court	Chapter 13	<b>Discussion forum post #17 due on 10/28</b>  <b>Discussion forum post #18 due on 10/30</b>
Week 11: 11/2 -	<b>How Do We Rehabilitate? (1):</b> Correctional programs and services	Chapter 9	<b>Discussion forum post #19 due on 11/4</b>  <b><u>Midterm II on Friday, 11/6</u></b>
Week 12: 11/9 -	<b>Capital Punishment and the Death Row Inmate</b>  Capital punishment as a sentence The death penalty in contemporary society Legality of the death penalty Working on death row Living on death row Arguments for and against death penalty Does the death penalty deter murder?	Chapter 12	<b>Discussion forum post #20 due on 11/11</b>  <b>Discussion forum post #21 due on 11/13</b>
Week 13: 11/16 -	<b>Capital Punishment and the Death Row Inmate Cont.</b>	Beck, Elizabeth, Sarah Britto, and Arlene Andrews. 2007. "You Didn't Punish Him, You	<b>Discussion forum post #22 due on</b>

	Family members of death row inmates	<p>Punished Me” Pp. 74 – 91 in <i>In the Shadow of Death: Restorative Justice and Death Row Families</i>. New York, NY: Oxford University Press</p> <p><i>Film: Escaping Japan’s Death Row</i>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfB4eHIkfyM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfB4eHIkfyM</a></p>	<p><b>11/20</b></p> <p><b>Discussion forum post #23 due on 11/22</b></p>
Week 14: 11/23 – (NO CLASS THANKS GIVING BREAK)			
Week 15: 11/30 -	<b>How Do We Rehabilitate? (2):</b> Parole and Release to the Community	Chapter 10	<p><b>Discussion forum post #24 due on 12/2</b></p> <p><b>Discussion forum post #25 due on 12/4</b></p>
Week 16: 12/7 -	<p><b>Children with Incarcerated Parents</b></p> <p>Collateral consequences of incarceration  Family and incarceration  Children of prisoners</p>	<p>Braman, Donald. 2002. “Families and Incarceration.” Pp. 117–35 in <i>Invisible Punishment: The collateral consequences of mass imprisonment</i>, edited by Marc Mauer and Meda Chesney-Lind. New York, NY: The New Press.</p> <p>Sesame Street: Children with Incarcerated Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits/incarceration">https://www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits/incarceration</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion forum post #26 due on 12/9</b></p> <p><b><u>Term Paper due on Friday, 12/11</u></b></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNXE32g-nXI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNXE32g-nXI</a></li> </ul>	
Finals Week: 12/14 -			<b><u>Final Exam:</u></b> <b><u>Wednesday,</u></b> <b><u>12/16</u></b>

**Grading Scale:**

Three exams – 45% (15% each)  
 Discussion Forum Posts – 30%  
 Research Paper – 25%

**Grade Distribution:**

94 – 100%= A	80 – 82%= B-	67 – 69%= D+
90 – 93%= A-	76 – 79%= C+	64 – 66%= D
86 – 89%= B+	73 – 75%= C	60 – 63%= D-
83 – 85%= B	70 – 72%= C-	59% or lower= F

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty in any form (plagiarism, cheating, lying, stealing, etc.) will NOT be tolerated in this course. Academic dishonesty includes signing in for students who are not present in class or including an absent classmate’s name on an in-class assignment. Students who turn in the work of other students either past or present will be in violation of this policy. The regulations for academic conduct set forth in the Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced. If you are found to be violating these expectations, you could fail the assignment, fail the course, and/or be reported to the Office of Student Standards. All assignments will be submitted through TurnItIn to check for plagiarism. Not properly citing your work is a form of plagiarism and will be treated as such. Familiarize yourself with in-text citation and visit the Writing Center if you need assistance.

**Academic integrity:** Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

**COVID-19 Safety Precautions & Behavior Expectations:** To protect our campus community during the Covid-19 pandemic, all persons on campus are required to observe social distancing guidelines, wash hands frequently, and wear a clean cloth or disposable face mask in all shared spaces, including classrooms, hallways, offices, dining halls, grounds and parking lots. Students should also self-monitor for possible Covid-19 symptoms, and contact university health services if feeling sick. Students who refuse to comply with the Covid-19 mask policy will be asked to leave the classroom, and will be reported to the Office of Student Standards for further disciplinary action. For additional information about EIU Covid-19 policies and expectation, please refer to the *EIU Covid-19 Return to Campus Guidebook* at <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/returntocampus.php>.