

Rutgers University
Prisons and Prisoners sec 02
Fall 2011

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Texts: Tregea, W. & Larmour M. (2009) The Prisoners' World
Ross, J & Richards, S. (2003) Convict Criminology

Course Description

Prisons are environments that exert extra-ordinary control (social, emotional, physical, etc) over its prisoners. This is an analytical exploration of the correctional process utilizing the theories of environmental press and prisonization to explore the prisons social forces (custody and convict), their effect upon those confined, and its consequences for society. The course is intended to challenge common views of prison operations that perpetrate myth and misunderstanding to result in a perspective that will query both current and proposes uses of the prison as a social institution. Prisons, especially now, exert a tremendous financial obligation from taxpayers, politicians for the past 40 years have used it as a platform for elections, and it has become a repository for the nation's minorities, addicts and mentally among others. These issues similarly affect the social fabric.

A few words about Convict Criminology: Convict Criminology proposes a methodology, a theory, and a perspective about the study of correctional environments and its occupants. Its study could easily occupy a full semester of work. This semester will provide you with an introduction to that theory and that perspective for your consideration. Dr. Richards ends every email with the message, "we have been tough on crime, now we need to be smart on crime." This semester proposes to offer an exploration or prisons and prisoners with the tenets of convict criminology as its underpinnings.

Course Objectives:

To understand the history of the prison, its uses and changes in operation
To understand the role of prison in society
To understand the theory of prisonization and why this theory effectively explains prison functioning
To dispel the myths that surround prison
An introduction to Convict Criminology
To explore the perceptions of ex-offenders and others about the correctional process
To understand the progression through prison for a convict
To understand the costs of imprisonment
To Challenge students to continue their inquiry into the correctional experience.

Course Schedule:

Sept. 7 & 8 Intro to the Course

Reading the text

Writing the papers

Why this course is Important - We are Hooked on Jail

Goals of the Course

Goals of Punishment

Text Assignment: The Prisoners' World part 1 Chapters 1,2 & 3

Convict Criminology Preface, Intro Chapters 1, 2,3 & 4

Response question 1st Journal Entry: Do prison sentences make society safer?

Handouts: Syllabus

Book Review Guidelines

Grading system

Bibliography

Hooked On Jail

Crime Wave

Rideau: Why Prisons Don't Work

Medical Model

Wizard of Id

Sept 12, 14, 19 & 21 Intro to Punishment and History of the Prison

200 years of failed reform movements

Text Assignment The Prisoners' World Part 1 Chapters 1,2 & 3

Convict Criminology chapters 5, 6 & 7

Video - ACA History of prison

SUBMIT: Title for Book Critique

SUBMIT : Topic for research

Handouts: Boy 12 Executed ,Sentencing Reform , The Drug Wars

POW's

Does It Work , Can Capital Punishment Ever Be

Administered Fairly , Can They Execute the Innocent?

Probably

Woman Freed after Mistake Discovered

Wrongly Jailed, Castrated, Man Free After 68 Years

Prison Principles

Sept. 26, 28 and October 3 The Prison Experience pt 1

Introduction to theory of prisonization and Environmental Press

Quarantine and introduction to life in the cell

Video - Lewisburg Video - Let the Doors be of Iron

Handouts: Racial Tensions in LA Jail

**Text Assignment The Prisoners' World Part 1 Chapters 1,2 & 3
Part 2 Chapters 4 & 5
Part 3 Chapters 6 & 7
Convict Criminology chapters 11, 12 & 13**

October 3 Review for Mid term

**October 5 Mid Term
Submit one half of journal entries
Submit one page summary of progress on paper
Student reviews of progress
Text Assignment The Prisoners' World Part 3 Chapters 8 & 9
Part 4 Chapters 10, 11, 12**

**October 10, 12, 17 & 19 The Prison Experience pt 1 cont.
Stages of Prisonization
Classification and general population
Text Assignment The Prisoners' World Part 2 Chapters 4 & 5
Part 3 Chapters 6 & 7
Handouts: Cleaver: A Day In Folsom Prison
Typical Inmate
Review for mid-term**

**October 24, 26 & 31 The Prison Experience pt. 2
PIC, Sex, Violence,
Text Assignment The Prisoners' World Part 3 Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16
& 17
Convict Criminology Chapters 8, 9 & 10
Handout: La. Prison Probe
****March 31 BOOK CRITIQUE DUE****

**November 2, 7, 9 * 14 Work, Idleness in prison
Text Assignment The Prisoners' World Part 3 Chapters 13, 14, 15,
16 & 17**

Convict Criminology Chapter 13

**November 16, 21, 28 Release from Prison
Text Assignment The Prisoners' World Part 5 Chapters 18 & 19
Convict Criminology Chapter 14 & 15 and**

Thanksgiving Recess November 23 - 27

November 28 Conclusion – Release from prison

November 30 & December 5 Prison experimentation

December 7 & 12 Conclusion

Handouts: Prison Business is a Blockbuster

Crime in US Costing 163 Billion Each Year

Old Convicts Clog Prison Cells

Prison: Our Penitentiaries are turning into Nursing Homes.

Prisons: A Growth Industry

New prisons Cast Shadow Over Higher Education

Financial World

The cost of corrections

***December 12 Review for Final**

***December 5 LAST DATE FOR PAPERS AND JOURNALS**

Reading days December 14 and 15

Final Exam December 19

GRADING

Grades will be determined by numerical grades from tests and assignments. ALL assignments must be completed satisfactorily. Those assignments are: 1 Book Critique, 1 papers, 1 journal with a minimum of 15 1 page entries

NOTE: You must see Dr. Sheridan for all absences

BOOK critique: The book critique is mandatory and is not a book report. You are to READ the book and do an analysis of the content of the experience. All books read for the critique must be approved by Dr. Sheridan. See Bibliography as a guide. This is a critical review and you are to compare and contrast book content to material discussed in class. Length – 4 pages minimum

Journal - 25 entries are to be a response to some personal perception of corrections (prisons) and why it is your belief, that is a response to something discussed in class, that is a response to a movie, TV show, media report or, talk show, newspaper editorial, book that has been read, etc. Final journal entry is your personal assessment of progress – a review of all entries and a reaction to how you have developed, thinking affected, and next steps to furthering your understanding of prison environment. Assessment may include general statement of affect. Journal entries are no more than 1 paragraph long. The final entry will be no less than 2 pages long and typed. Other entries may be carefully handwritten and are a reaction which will be discussed in class

CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS

Paper Requirements:

1. **The paper must address the topic. They are not comprised of opinions they are based on research. Your opinion may be used as a starting point from which you will develop the paper from your research. See Rubric for grading guide**
2. **The paper must satisfy the instructors guidelines to be rated as satisfactory otherwise they will be handed back as unsatisfactory**
3. **All papers will be on white paper and typed.**
4. **Papers must adhere to the requirements of English Grammar.**
 - a. **Proof all work prior to submission for mistakes of grammar**
 - b. **Proof all work prior to submission for spelling errors**
 - c. **Papers will be written on one side of the page**
 - d. **Papers will NOT contain cross outs.**
5. **References are to be documented, this includes the use of your textbook or class notes.**
6. **Papers may not be plagiarized.**
 7. **The length of paper will be a minimum of 6 typed.**

Paper topic(s) will be discussed in first class

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