

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

Fall 2013

01:202:389

September 4, 2013 to December 11, 2013

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**Textbook:** Offender Re-entry: Rethinking Criminology and Criminal Justice, by Crow, Matthew S. & Smykla, Ortiz 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

Class Participation 20%

**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.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.

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

Class 1: September 4, 2013

Discussion of course syllabus; students' introduction; Overview of Chapter 1: Reentry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges and opportunities

Class 2: September 11, 2013

Chapter 2: Cultural Challenges: Implementing Reentry Reform at a Correctional Facility; class presentation

Class 3: September 18, 2013

Chapter 3: Prison Work: Transforming identity and reducing recidivism; related hand-outs; class presentation

Class 4: September 25, 2013

Chapter 4: A second chance? Challenges in implementing and assessing Offender reentry initiatives; class presentation

Class 5: October 2, 2013

Chapter 5: Addressing the unique challenges of jail reentry; class presentation

Class 6: October 9, 2013

Chapter 6: Factors associated with recidivism among reentry program participants in the jail setting: Results and Recommendations

Class 7: October 16, 2013

Chapter 7: Unmet Need: A survey of state resources at the moment of reentry; class presentation

Class 8: October 23, 2013

Chapter 8: Using 20 minutes wisely: community Supervision Officers as Agents of Change; Class presentation

Class 9: October 30, 2013

Chapter 9: Reentry and employment: Employers' willingness to hire formerly convicted felons in Northwest Florida

Class 10: November 6, 2013

Chapter 10: Men's network relationships and reentry experiences; hand outs will be supplied, class presentation

Chapter 11: When troubled offenders come home: removing barriers to reentry for offenders with mental illness; class presentation

Class 11: November 13, 2013

Chapter 12: Managing the reentry transition with substance use propensities: Insights from a sample of parolees in a small, industrialized Midwestern city, guest speaker

Chapter 13: Evaluating a juvenile reentry program: An elusive target; class presentation

Class 12: November 20, 2013

Chapter 14: What works here? A methodology for evaluating local reentry programming; class presentation

Chapter 15: Lessons on prisoner reentry program implementation from San Diego SB 618 experience; class presentation

Class 13: NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING BREAK- November 27, 2013

Class 14: December 4, 2013

Chapter 16: Prison, Reentry, and offender's perceptions of correctional punishments; class presentation

Chapter 17: Coming to a Crossroads: A critical look at the sustainability of the prisoner reentry movement; class presentation

Final Exam review

Class 15: December 11, 2013

Final Exam