



Bridgewater State University
Department of Criminal Justice
CRJU354 Corrections
Fall 2020

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Course Description and Goals

The subject [of prisons and corrections] is the concern and responsibility of every member of our profession and of every citizen. This is your justice system; these are your prisons.

--Former Justice Anthony Kennedy, Speech to the ABA (2003)

The U.S. penal system has rapidly grown over the past four decades, and approximately 6.6 million Americans—about 1 in 38 adults—are under some form of correctional supervision. This course is designed to encourage you to

- (1) Consider the purposes and goals of punishment,
- (2) Examine how social, economic, and political factors influence incarceration trends and other correctional policy choices,
- (3) Evaluate correctional policies, consider the implications of how we punish, and debate various options.

Course Materials

- The required readings will be posted on Blackboard. You don't need to buy a book on your own.
- We will cover 13 different topics over 13 weeks of classes. Each week you are expected to read 1-2 papers carefully. Sometimes you will watch a few short video clips recorded by different scholars and institutions. All readings and videos are mandatory.

Instruction Contact Information

- Feel free to e-mail me with any questions or concerns about this course. I will make sure to respond to you within 24 hours.
- Since this class is fully online due to the pandemic, all of my communication with students will take place over e-mail. This means that you have to **CHECK YOUR E-MAIL REGULARLY**. I am going to assume that you are checking your e-mail at least **ONCE A DAY**. If you are going to be away from Internet access for more than that amount of time, please let me know beforehand.
- Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., you can join me and your classmates in a virtual office hour. Links to the virtual meetings will be posted on Blackboard in advance. I am also happy to schedule personal virtual appointments with you as needed. You are encouraged to meet with me virtually to ensure comprehension of the course material.

Evaluation Rules

- The total grade is 100 points. There will be 15 extra credits for you to grab throughout this semester.
- Your performance in this class is evaluated through: 1) quizzes, worth 60% of the total grade; and 2) short essays, worth 40% of the total grade.
- You should be aware that the subjects we cover are generally cumulative in nature. As a result, areas covered early in the course are relevant throughout the entire course.
- If you have questions about the grade you receive on an assignment, I am happy to answer those questions and to suggest ways that you can do better.
- If you do not think that the grade you receive reflects the quality of your work, you may ask for the answers to be graded again. To do so, submit a formal appeal in writing, explaining why you think the grade you receive is not a fair reflection of the quality of your work. The new grade, whether high or lower, will then become your final grade on this assignment.
- There are no opportunities to re-take tests or to do extra-credit work requested by the students in this course.
- At the end of the semester, I will calculate your grade as described above and that grade becomes your final grade. I will not increase any person's grade solely to change their letter grade. So if you make an 89, you will make a B+, not an A-. No amount of pleading will change this outcome. Particularly common and ineffective are pleas claiming that your grade in this class will cause you to lose a scholarship, prevent you from attending the graduate or professional school of your choice, or lead to some other unfortunate, but unlikely, consequence.

Quizzes

- Each week there will be a quiz of 5 questions (multiple choice and true/false), each question is worth 1 point. Throughout this semester, there will be altogether 60 questions, worth 60 points out of the total grade of 100 points.
- Because the quizzes are based entirely on online course materials, I will go through everyone's answers each week and check to make sure that none of the questions are too tricky, specific, or vague for the students. If any question is answered correctly less than 30% of the time, I'll assume it is unfairly difficult and give everyone credit for it.

- There is no opportunity to retake the quiz. If your Internet breaks off while you take the quiz, let me know immediately and I will give you two short-answer questions to finish in lieu of the quizzes (2.5 points per question). The short-answer questions are of the same difficulty levels with the quizzes and should take less than 30 minutes to finish.

Short Essays

- Throughout the semester, you are expected to write three short essays, worth 40% of the total grade.
- The first essay focuses on topics in weeks #1, #2, and #3. You are expected to write a two-page double-spaced essay about mass incarceration. The essay is worth 15 points, or 10% of the total grade.
- The second essay focuses on topics in weeks #4 to #7. You are expected to write a two-page double-spaced essay to identify problems within the corrections system. The essay is worth 15 points, or 15% of the total grade.
- The third essay focuses on topics in weeks #11 and #12. You are expected to write a two-page double-spaced essay about how to improve the corrections system. The essay is worth 10 points, or 10% of the total grade.

Extra Credits

- Each week you can get 1 extra credit by posting a response to the assigned discussion topic on Blackboard. The discussion topics are designed to help you understand the impact of the pandemic on the corrections system. You are encouraged to participate and respond to your classmates' posts.
- In the first week, you can get up to 2 extra credits by completing the weekly 5-question quiz before the due date (0.4 extra credit per question).

Late Work and Missed Work

- Late assignments will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 5 points.
- If you are late for the quizzes, contact me and I will give you two short-answer questions to finish in lieu of the quizzes (2.5 points per question). The short-answer questions are of the same difficulty levels with the quizzes and should take less than 30 minutes to finish. Late submissions will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 2 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late submission is 2 points.
- If you are late for the extra credit assignments, you will not get any extra credits, including the first-week quiz and the weekly discussion posts.
- If you need to miss an exam or any assignment, you *must have a university-approved excuse*. The University policy regarding absences and make-up work can be found here: <https://catalog.bridgew.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=486&hl=prerequisite+policy&returnto=search>.
- If you need to make up an assignment, you must do so within a week of returning from your excused absence.

Grading Scale

A: 100-94	B: 86-84	C: 76-74	D: 66-64
A-: 93-90	B-: 83-80	C-: 73-70	D-: 63-60
B+: 89-87	C+: 79-77	D+: 69-67	F: 59 or below

Syllabus Change Policy

- The syllabus is designed to be a resource that students should use throughout the semester. While this syllabus lists course materials and test dates, students should use the course website and Blackboard as their primary source for detailed information regarding the course. This is important because the instructor may update or modify assignments and readings throughout the course. In the situation of change or modification, the instructor will post changes under the "Announcements" tab on Blackboard.

Academic Honor Policy

- I do not tolerate academic misconduct of any kind. This includes, but is not limited to cheating and plagiarism. The most common reason students resort to plagiarism or cheating is running out of time to do the assignment properly. Please plan accordingly and be sure to allow yourself sufficient time to complete all assignments. As a student at BSU, it is your responsibility to understand and abide by university policies: <https://catalog.bridgew.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=970>
- Please take time to understand the nature of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes turning in the same work to more than one class, not citing sources correctly, not paraphrasing correctly, etc.
- Failure to abide by any classroom or BSU policy may result in one or more of the following actions depending on the severity of the offense: 1) written warning, 2) reduction of the course grade, 3) failure of the course, and 4) referral to the Dean

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

- BSU makes every effort to accommodate the unique needs of its students. In keeping with university policy, students are expected to contact the Disability Resources Office (DRO) each time they register for a course to request accommodations for that course. DRO then provides a letter to the instructor for the upcoming class. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation for a documented disability should contact the Disability Resources Office at 508-531-2194, TTY 508- 531-6113, or email at DisabilityResources@bridgew.edu for review and approval of accommodation requests.

Title IX and Sexual Violence

- BSU is committed to maintaining safe and healthy learning, living and working environments that are free from all forms of sexual violence; inclusive of sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and retaliation. The Office

of Equal Opportunity and the Title IX Coordinator work to ensure that all members of the campus community flourish in a supportive and fair climate. Consistent with this commitment, the BSU sexual violence policy complies with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendment of 1972 (“Title IX”), which prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in education programs and activities, as well as the retaliation for the purposes of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX. To learn more regarding all resources for victim-survivors see <https://my.bridgew.edu/departments/affirmativeaction/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

*All readings and videos are **mandatory** and provided on Blackboard.*

Theme	Week*	Description and Assigned Materials	Evaluations
1. Course Overview and Introduction to Basic Concepts about Corrections	#1 (W, 09/02 - W, 09/09)	1) Syllabus 2) Clear et al. (2013). American corrections in brief. 3) Kifer et al. (2003). The goals of corrections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 09/09 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. It is open-book. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. You can get up to 2 extra credits by completing the quiz before the due date (0.4 extra credit per question). The quiz covers content from the syllabus and the reading. You are expected to understand how your work will be evaluated in this class and my expectations from the syllabus. You are also expected to understand the components and goals of the corrections system. Essay #1 (covering the first three topics) is due Wednesday 09/30 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 09/09 at 5p.m.
2. Mass Incarceration	#2 (W, 09/09 – W, 09/16)	1) Enns. (2016). Chapter 1 in <i>Incarceration Nation</i> . 2) Video on mass incarceration: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u51_pzax4M0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 09/16 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from the reading and the video. You are expected to understand the growth of the U.S. corrections system and the state of mass incarceration. Essay #1 (covering the first three topics) is due Wednesday 09/30 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 09/16 at 5p.m.
3. How Did We Get Here?	#3 (W, 09/16 – W, 09/23)	1) Enns. Who led whom. 2) Video on penal populism: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rDo5RSNFJs 3) Weaver. Frontlash. 4) Video on tough on crime: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISFTFoGSRjE&t=15s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 9/23 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the readings and video. You are expected to understand the roles of tough-on-crime political rhetoric and public punitiveness in shaping penal policies. Essay #1 (covering the first three topics) is due Wednesday 09/30 at 5p.m. You should have a draft for the essay in this week. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 09/23 at 5p.m.
4. Jails vs. Prisons	#4 (W, 09/23 – W, 09/30)	1) Jails: https://courses.lumenlearning.com/atd-bmcc-criminaljustice/chapter/section-6-1-jails/ 2) Jails vs. prisons: https://www.diffen.com/difference/Jail vs Prison 3) Lecture slides on types of prisons and solitary confinement 4) The use of prolonged solitary confinement in the US prisons, jails, and detention centers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 9/30 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the readings, lecture slides, and video. You are expected to understand the differences between prisons and jails, and the different types of prisons. You are also expected to understand the pains endured by the prisoners. Essay #1 (covering the first three topics) is due Wednesday 09/30 at 5p.m. Late assignments will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 5 points. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 09/30 at 5p.m. Essay #2 (covering topics #4 to #7) is due Wednesday 10/28 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now.

5. Special Prion Populations: The Elderly and the Mentally Ill	#5 (W, 09/30 – W, 10/07)	1) Podcast on aging in prison: https://www.earhustlesq.com/episodes/2017/10/11/gold-coats-and-ogs 2) Older prisons, higher costs: https://www.themarshallproject.org/2015/05/06/older-prisoners-higher-costs 3) Adams & Ferrandino. (2008). Managing mentally ill inmates in prisons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 10/07 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the readings and podcast. You are expected to understand the struggles faced by elder and mentally ill inmates and ways to help them in the corrections system. Essay #2 (covering topics #4 to #7) is due Wednesday 10/28 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 10/07 at 5p.m.
6. Special Prison Populations: Women and LGBTQ	#6 (W, 10/07 – W, 10/14)	1) Fact sheet on justice involved women. 2) Faithful. (2009). Transitioning our prisons toward affirmative law. 3) Video on K6G: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2thDt4twxw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 10/14 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and the video. You are expected to understand the situations faced by female offenders and LGBTQ populations in prison. Essay #2 (covering topics #4 to #7) is due Wednesday 10/28 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 10/14 at 5p.m.
7. Private Prisons and Criminalization of Immigrants	#7 (W, 10/14 – W, 10/21)	1) Greene. (2006). Banking on the prison boom. 2) Podcast- https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-05-18/how-immigration-detention-creates-shadow-prison-system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and the podcast. You are expected to understand the state of prison privatization and crimmigration in shadow prisons. Essay #2 (covering topics #4 to #7) is due Wednesday 10/28 at 5p.m. You should have a draft for this essay in this week. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m.
8. Probation vs. Parole	#8 (W, 10/21 – W, 10/28)	1) Lecture slides on probation and parole. 2) Video on the differences between probation and parole: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrlzRD6FoKQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 10/28 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and video. You are expected to understand the differences between probation and parole and the relevant concepts. Essay #2 (covering topics #4 to #7) is due Wednesday 10/28 at 5p.m. Late assignments will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 5 points. You can get 1 extra credits by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 10/28 at 5p.m.
9. Intermediate Sanctions	#9 (W,10/ 28 – W, 11/04)	1) Chapter 5 (intermediate sanctions) in <i>Corrections Today</i> . 2) Podcast on fees and fines: https://www.npr.org/transcripts/312158516	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 11/04 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and podcast. You are expected to understand the different types of intermediate sanctions and their limitations You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 11/04 at 5p.m.

10. Capital Punishment in Practice	#10 (W, 11/04 – T, 11/10)	1) Radelet & Borg. (2000). The changing nature of death penalty debates. 2) This man has expired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 11/10 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both readings. You are expected to understand the debates about death penalty. You can get 1 extra credits by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 11/10 at 5p.m.
11. Recidivism and Reentry	#11 (Th, 11/12 – W, 11/18)	1) Lipsey & Cullen. (2007). The effectiveness of correctional rehabilitation. 2) Visher & Travis. (2003). Transitions from prison to community. 3) Video on reentry: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NczRZLkdtAg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 11/18 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the readings and video. You are expected to understand the difficulties of reentry and ways to facilitate successful reentry. Essay #3 (covering topics #11 and #12) is due Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 11/18 at 5p.m.
12. Reforming the Corrections System	#12 (W, 11/18 – W, 11/25)	1) Sabol & Baumann. Justice reinvestment. 2) Beckett. (2018). The politics, promise, and peril of criminal justice reform in the context of mass incarceration. 3) Video on corrections system reform: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtH7a0PqAxc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 11/25 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 points. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the readings and video. You are expected to understand possible ways to improve the corrections system in the future. Essay #3 (covering topics #11 and #12) is due Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. You should have a draft for this essay in this week. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 11/25 at 5p.m.
13. Working in the Corrections System	#13 (M, 11/30 – W, 12/09)	1) Ted Conover: https://www.cnn.com/2000/LAW/06/transcripts/conover.book.fl.6.7/index.html 2) Lecture slides on prison staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and video. You are expected to understand the life of correctional officers. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. Essay #3 (covering topics #11 and #12) is due Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m.
M: Monday; T: Tuesday; W: Wednesday; Th: Thursday; F: Friday; S: Sunday. All dates are in 2020.			