

# ***EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY***

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology

**CRM 331: Corrections** Dr P. S. Leighton

W 2008, M 5:30 – 8:10 204 Pray Harold

Office: 712 Pray Harold, x 0012

Office Hours: M & W 3:30 - 5:30 or by appointment

<http://paulsjusticepage.com> > Classes & EMU > CRM 331

## ***DESCRIPTION***

This class is not only an introduction to the field of corrections but also larger issues of *penology* – the study of pain and punishment. We will examine the historical development of prison and the death penalty in order to understand their contemporary form. The emphasis will be on understanding key problems with what we have now and think about viable reforms. In addition to the prison itself, examination also includes whether the United States overuses incarceration to the extent it is on an imprisonment 'binge' and the extent to which there is a 'criminal justice-industrial complex' influencing public policy about prisons. The political economy of punishment, the relationship of penal institutions to the larger system of justice and our ideals of civilization will be key themes for the semester. Indeed, the semester will finish with an examination of the death penalty, one of the ultimate acts of state power that the US continues to use, even over the increasing objection of our international peers in Europe and elsewhere.

## ***REQUIRED READING***

Marc Mauer and Meda Chesney-Lind. *Invisible Punishment: The Collateral Consequences of Mass Imprisonment*. New Press 1-56584-726-1

Robert Johnson, *Hard Time* Wadsworth, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 0534507174

Helen Prejean, *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*. Vintage Books; 0679751319

The book order has been placed with Barnes & Noble in McKinney Union, Mike's, Ned's, and Campus Book and Supply. Also, the class webpage links to the books at Amazon.com. You may have to try several sources to get all the books, but they are available.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

TEST 1: 55 points

TEST 2: 50 points

FINAL: 50 points

Paper 1: 10 points

Paper 2: 15 points

Worksheets: 35 points (3 @10 points each, 1 @ 5 points)

TOTAL = 215 points

All **tests** will be a combination of true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, short answer (one sentence to a paragraph) and short essay. Tests will not be cumulative, but up to 10% of the questions on the final *can* be questions from earlier tests. **No one will be admitted to take the test after the first person has left.**

No **make-up tests** will be given in this class. Students who have an appropriate excuse for missing a test can present a typed paper of about 14-16 pages that reviews the material and provides information answering all the questions on the review sheet. They will **ONLY** be accepted with a note certifying medical care or the death of someone close. Make-up papers are normally due two weeks after the test, although there is flexibility for deaths and illness that prevent a timely return to school work. As with other papers (see below) email attachments are not acceptable. A note about **appealing grades**: All requests for a change of grade should be written (typed) and accompanied by a copy of your test. Please note any computational errors, identify pages from the text that support your answer or articulate any ambiguity in the wording of the question that caused problems.

**Attendance and participation** are part of the grade. Test questions may cover material presented in class that was not covered in the texts and you are responsible for all the information presented. Being present also allows the opportunity to ask questions and further explore areas of interest to you. Consistent and constructive participation in class can help improve your final grade. Importantly, many current issues relate to the field so clippings from the newspaper and questions about linkages of this material to other social debates is **STRONGLY** encouraged.

A series of **short papers** will be required. The due dates are noted in the schedule below, although some of the reading may only be available through links from the class webpage (see below or on page 1 for address). **All writing** must be turned in on the day it is due, be typed double-spaced in 10-12 point font with standard one inch margins. Spelling, grammar and syntax matter to the extent that they affect your ability to express your points clearly, powerfully and articulately. Late penalties apply to papers turned in after the due date and increase greatly after the papers

have been returned. Any papers turned in after the last class will be worth a maximum of 1 point. DO NOT SUBMIT PAPERS AS AN EMAIL ATTACHMENT – I will only accept a hard copy. If necessary, you can FAX it to me at the department, 734/487-7010. I would recommend confirming with the front office (487-0012) that it came through.

Several **worksheets** are also required. The information and worksheets are available through the class webpage. These assignments will provide up to date statistics and introduce students to important resources they can continue to use. It is thus important for everyone to go to the internet, retrieve the relevant documents and do their own work.

**Plagiarism** is appropriating or imitating the ideas, thoughts and language of another and passing them off as your own. This act occurs when students copy portions of a book (usually more than four consecutive words) without using quotation marks and a citation. It is also plagiarism to copy portions of another student's paper.

More generally, education involves not just getting a degree but a search for truth, which requires honesty and personal integrity. Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this class. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the *Office of Student Judicial Services* for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The **Student Conduct Code** contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty, but if you are not sure about whether something you're doing would be considered academic dishonesty, consult with the instructor.

Students are expected to abide by the **Student Conduct Code** and assist in creating an environment that is conducive to learning and protects the rights of all members of the University community. Incivility and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may result in a request to leave class and referral to the *Office of Student Judicial Services (SJS)* for discipline. Examples of inappropriate classroom conduct include repeatedly arriving late to class, using a cellular telephone, or talking while others are speaking. You may access the Code online at [www.emich.edu/sjs](http://www.emich.edu/sjs).

### **CELL PHONE POLICY**

Having phones ring in class is distracting and really irritating. Turn the ringer off for the brief time we're in class and let voicemail pick up the call. If you are expecting something important (child care, etc), set the phone to vibrate and sit by the door so you can leave easily without disturbing the class.

### **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES & READINGS**

Please read the assignments carefully & note that we are reading some chapters out of order and skipping part or all of others. Tests will cover material that was discussed in lecture but may not be in the readings, so you are responsible for getting notes

from classes you miss. Some of the readings for quizzes and papers comes from the internet; they should be accessed through the class webpage. Please bookmark it and check in

<http://paulsjusticepage.com> > Classes & EMU Info > CRM 331  
 or <http://paulsjusticepage.com/emu/crm331.htm>

Circumstances sometimes require flexibility and students are responsible for any departures that are announced in class. The online syllabus/webpage for this class provides additional information and will be updated throughout the semester.

NOTE on WORKSHEETS - I am still in the process of updating links to information and the worksheet questions, so you may not yet be able to access them. However, I will have worksheets 'live' (available) on the website at least 2 weeks before they are due.

<b>Required Reading and Exercises</b>		
<b>1/7</b>	<b>Introduction &amp; Greeting</b>	
<b>1/14</b>	<b>Johnson, Intro, Ch 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Paper 1: Go to the class webpage (see info above for paulsjusticepage.com) and read Ted Conover's article, Guarding Sing Sing. Write a 2 page paper that identifies a quote from each section that you found important and briefly discusses it.</b>
<b>1/21</b>	<b>MLK DAY – NO CLASSES</b>	
<b>1/28</b>	<b>Johnson ch 3, 4 &amp; 5 (skip state raised inmate section)</b>	
<b>2/4</b>	<b>Johnson ch 7 &amp; 8</b>	<b>Worksheet 1 due: Michigan's Crime &amp; Prison statistics. (see class webpage for link and worksheet) 10 points</b>
<b>2/11</b>	<b>Johnson ch 9 &amp; 10</b>	
<b>2/18</b>	<b>test 1</b>	<b>Please be on time – no one will be admitted after the first person has left</b>

2/25 – 3/2	WINTER RECESS – NO CLASSES	
3/3	Mauer & Chesney-Lind: Intro + Ch 1, 15, 5 & 8	<p><b>Worksheet 2 due: ‘Prisoners in 2006’. (See class webpage for link and worksheet) 10 points</b></p> <p>You will need to <i>open up the .pdf/ Adobe Acrobat file</i> to complete this assignment because the other versions do not have all the tables. Please be careful to distinguish between the <i>number, a rate and percents</i> – make sure you provide the information requested by the questions in the worksheet.</p>
3/10	Mauer & Chesney-Lind: ch 7,11, 6 & 12	<p><b>Worksheet 3 due: ‘Criminal Justice Expenditures and Employment’. (See class webpage for link and worksheet) 5 points</b></p> <p>You will need to <i>open up the .pdf/ Adobe Acrobat file</i> to complete this assignment because the other versions do not have all the tables. Please be careful to distinguish between the <i>number, a rate and percents</i> – make sure you provide the information requested by the questions in the worksheet.</p>
3/17	Mauer & Chesney-Lind: ch 3,10, & 16	<p><b>Go to class webpage and follow link for international incarceration rates. Know the rates of the countries listed on the review sheet for the test.</b></p>
3/24	test 2	<p><b>Please be on time – no one will be admitted after the first person has left</b></p>
3/31	Prejean Intro + ch 1 - 3	<p><b>Worksheet 4 Due: Capital Punishment (See class webpage for link and worksheet) 10 points</b></p> <p>You will need to <i>open up the .pdf/ Adobe Acrobat file</i> to complete this assignment because the other versions do not have all the tables. Please be careful to distinguish between the <i>number, a rate and percents</i> – make sure you provide the information requested by the questions in the worksheet.</p>
4/7	Prejean ch 4 - 7	<p><b>Paper 2 due: See class webpage for details. The topic will be the <i>Baze v Rees</i>, a case the Supreme Court is hearing on lethal injection. I will hold off deciding on the specifics of the assignment until 3 weeks before it is due to see if the Court renders a decision (if not, the paper will be based on selected background reading and briefs).</b></p>
4/14	Prejean ch 9 - 11	<p><b>International news on death penalty will be covered as part of final exam ~ see review sheet for specifics</b></p>

4/21	Review & catch up
<p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> Professors do not have regular office hours after the last class. Make sure to get in touch <i>before classes end</i> if you have an important issue to resolve. All back work should be turned in before the end of the last class. The late penalty escalates sharply at this point; papers and worksheets turned in after the last day of class will be worth a maximum of 1 point. Work turned in at the final exam will only be counted if you have made prior arrangements with me.</p>	
<p><b>FINAL EXAM: 4/28 regular class time</b></p>	

I will post final grades to the my.emich system as soon as I have final grades for the entire class. Please check your account rather than email me.

I will not respond to any questions about grades until I have finished final grading for all 3 of my classes, the independent studies, graduate thesis and nonthesis papers for the semester.