

CJUS 335

Inside-Out Syllabus

Crime and Justice: The Inside-Out Prison Exchange

SYLLABUS – Spring 2008

Course Overview:

This course takes a pedagogical approach to topics of crime, justice, social action and the role people both on the inside and outside of correctional institutions play in shaping such matters. By bringing university students and correctional students together behind the walls of an institution, this course is an opportunity for all participants to gain a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system through a marriage of theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to:

- promote a deeper understanding of how crime manifests in our society.
- encourage critical thinking about and discussion of the criminal justice system and individuals' roles and responsibilities within it.
- explore the components of the criminal justice system.
- provide an experiential learning opportunity for students to test and hone their theoretical understanding about various justice and correctional issues.
- develop the analytical capacities of all students regarding perceptions and perspectives of social justice issues.

Format of Course:

Xavier students (outside students) will meet every week with an equal number of inmates (inside students) at Lebanon Correctional Institution. The class will consist of guided dialogue, in both the large group and smaller subgroups. Three classes—the first, third and last—are held separately in order to properly orient and debrief the process. Because of the selection process and nature of the class, attendance and punctuality are mandatory.

Required Reading:

The readings for this class will consist of a series of books and articles, among which are the following:

- Davis, Angela. 2003. *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Seven Stories Press
- Anderson, Elijah. 1999. *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence and the Moral Life of the Inner City.* W.W. Norton
- Mauer, Mark. 2006 *Race to Incarcerate. The Sentencing Project*
- Graterford Lifers Public Safety Initiative. 2004. "Ending the Culture of Street Crime." State Correctional Institution at Graterford, Pennsylvania.
- Conover, Ted. 2001. *Newjack.* Vintage Books
- Grapes, Bryan 2000. *Prisons: Current Controversies.* Greenhaven Press

The assigned readings are to be completed PRIOR to class meetings in order to fully participate in class dialogue and small group work.

Course Requirements and Grading:

PARTICIPATION: Given the interactive nature of the course, one-third of the final grade will come from attendance and participation. This includes attention, listening and actively joining in during both large and small group work.

REACTION PAPERS: Students will be required to write a reaction paper following each class meeting that includes observation of, analysis of and reaction to the class discussion. Reaction papers should integrate the homework readings for the week, including at least five relevant quotes (with citations). Students may skip up to three reaction papers during the semester, or submit more for extra credit.

HOME CONFINEMENT EXERCISE: Outside students are required to spend 48 hours "confined" to their home in order to simulate the experience of living behind bars. Rules are provided for this exercise and during the confinement, students will journal hourly and write their reactions.

FINAL PAPER: A final integrative paper will be due at the end of the semester. This paper is an opportunity to reflect on the entire experience and further analyze issues. The final paper should be at least 10 pages (double-spaced) with a minimum of 15 relevant quotations (with citations).

GROUP PROJECT: Throughout the semester, the sub-groups will address possible ideas for a class project. The students will vote on one idea and work together to create it.

Grade Distribution

Participation/Attendance 25%

Reaction Papers 20%

Home Confinement Exercise 15%

Group Project 20%

Final Paper 20%

Academic Honesty: As detailed in the Student Handbook, "All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student's own" (p. 52) Students should be aware that all suspect work will be submitted to turnitin.com, a service designed to detect plagiarism.