

University of Georgia - Department of Sociology  
**Criminal Punishment and Society**  
Sociology 3150-40386, Spring Semester, 2017  
Period 75, T,R, 2:00p.m. - 3:15p.m.; Baldwin 307

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Blog: <http://thepowerelite.blogspot.com>

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**Required Texts:** Welch, Michael. 2011. **Corrections: A Critical Approach ( 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)**.  
New York: Routledge.

Latessa, Edward and Alexander Holsinger (eds). 2016. **Correctional  
Contexts: Contemporary and Classical Readings (5<sup>th</sup> ed)**.  
New York: Oxford University Press.

These texts are required and are available digitally and in hardcopy.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVE**

This course focuses on the study of criminal punishment and society, and is designed to introduce a broad social framework from which one can critically explore prisons, jails, the death penalty, and various correctional strategies, all from a sociological analysis. Briefly, some of the major purposes are:

1. to survey historical and major contemporary rationales and theories for criminal punishment,
2. to survey the legal developments in correctional policy,
3. to focus attention on the death penalty and the continuing controversy about its appropriateness,
4. to examine imprisonment issues concerning women, minorities and juveniles, and
5. to examine current and future correctional policy trends, and the variety of social and political factors which influence them.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT**

Students are responsible for learning the material covered in the readings and lectures/discussions. You are responsible for the assigned material in the textbook whether or not it is discussed in class. Evaluation and grades will be based on 10 quizzes, and 5 online discussions.

Course Component	Numbers/Percentage	Totals
Quizzes (multiple choice & short answer)	10 x 8%	80%
Discussions Online	5 x 4%	20%
<i>Totals</i>		100%

Quizzes will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions (80 points) and one short-answer (20 points; 150 word minimum). The quizzes will be available to take **ONLY** on the dates indicated and each quiz is timed. Once you begin the quiz, you will have **30 minutes to complete** it before it expires and is automatically submitted to be graded. You will not have time to look for answers in your reading assignments or notes, so prepare for these quizzes as you would an in-class exam. **The 10<sup>th</sup> quiz will be taken** during the final exam time (this is university policy).

Discussions will count for 100 points each and will close on the dates indicated below. The rubric I will be using to assess your online discussion participation is listed below (all prompts should produce 150 words minimum). Please refer to this rubric to improve your performance in discussions.

	No Participation	Unsubstantial Participation	Partial Participation	Full Participation
Quality of Posting	Does not post an original peer response.  0 points	Post is not original and simply paraphrases what others have said or just says, "I agree..." or "Good idea..."  10 points	Post is original and contributes at least one new idea or that adds value to the discussion.  15 points	Post is original and contributes >1 new idea or example that adds value to the discussion.  20 points
Quantity of Posting	It does not appear that you have posted any responses to your classmates in the Main forum. To earn full participation, post a substantive message on the scheduled days.  0 points	You have a good start at participation, but for a post to count toward participation credit, it must be substantial. Thoroughly discuss or converse with classmates. Say more than just "I agree" or "sounds good". To earn full participation, post consistently and at length.  10 points	Your contributions to online discussion are stimulating and a pleasure to read. However, make sure to spread out evenly these participation posts.  15 points	Your contributions to classroom discussion are stimulating and a pleasure to read. Thanks for sharing!  15 points
Length of Posting	Does not post a peer response in the discussion topic area during the discussion period.  0 points	N/A	Post does not meet the minimum word count of 150 words.  15 points	Post meets the minimum word count.  20 points
Timeliness of Posting	Does not post a peer response in the discussion topic area.	N/A	N/A	Posts a response during the discussion period.

	0 points			20 points
<b>Degree of Peer Interactivity</b>	Does not interact with peers in the discussion topic area.  0 points	Writes bland peer responses throughout the discussion period. This does not include the initial response to the instructor's initial discussion question, but does include responses to peers and any additional instructor responses.  10 points	Writes at least 2 substantive peer responses throughout the discussion period. This does not include the initial response to the instructor's initial discussion question, but does include responses to peers and any additional instructor responses.  15 points	Writes > 5 substantive peer responses throughout the discussion period. This does not include the initial response to the assigned discussion question, but does include responses to peers and any additional instructor responses.  20 points

**Total Possible Points: 100 Points**

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the following Plus/Minus scale: 94-100=A, 90-93=A-, 87-89=B+, 84-86=B, 80-83=B-, 77-79=C+, 74-76=C, 70-73=C-, 60-69=D, 0-59=F. **Note: For sociology or criminal justice majors, a grade of C- or less will NOT count towards major course work.** Franklin College requires students to earn a grade of "C" or better in major required courses. Please be aware of your gpa throughout the semester. For more on Plus/Minus grading consult the UGA main page.

The quizzes will be based on both the text and in-class lectures/discussions. The final quiz is NOT comprehensive. You must study for each quiz: each quiz will be taken one time and one time only. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated. The giving or receiving of any help, with assistance or by proxy, on any quiz will result in an "F" for that activity. For other statements concerning academic dishonesty, please consult the University of Georgia Vice President for Academic Affairs web page at [www.uga.edu/vpaa](http://www.uga.edu/vpaa)

A student who officially withdraws for any reason by the **mid-point of the semester (March 20, 2017)** will receive a grade of "WP". Withdrawals after mid-point are not permitted without penalty. There are no instructor-initiated withdrawals for students who stop participating in the class after the semester starts. Should you choose to drop the course at any time during the semester, it is **your responsibility** to ensure that the proper paper work is completed in the registrar's office.

Incompletes "I" are assigned only when the student is unable to complete some aspect of required work, and the student has a passing grade at that point. Also, the "I" grade must be completed during the following semester or it will convert to a grade of "F". Incompletes and any "Hardship Withdrawals" require approval from the Dean of Students, Dr. Bill McDonald, and the head of the Sociology Department, Dr. Jody Clay-Warner.

## ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION

Attendance is required and will be taken at the instructor's discretion. You can earn an additional two (2) points towards your final grade point average (all ten quizzes and the discussion grades averaged) with regular attendance. Experience has shown that students who do not attend regularly receive a lower final grade in the course. Conversely, you can have points deducted for non-attendance. Attendance will be taken by sign-up sheets; **those who are tardy or leave early will be counted as absent; students found signing for other students (a serious and punishable violation of University of Georgia rules)**, will be disciplined accordingly. Since this is a bonus policy (at the instructor's discretion) there are **no excused absences, and only University-related excuses will be accepted**. Points will be added/deducted according to the following schedule:

3 or more absences	= 0 points towards final gpa
1-2 absences	= 1 point towards final gpa
0 absences	= 2 points towards final gpa
Failure to attend 50%	= 5 points deducted from final gpa

**Laptops are not permissible in class.** Because of the wireless distraction to both the instructor and fellow classmates (plus, research showing students taking notes on laptops do worse in class), **laptops are not allowed** in class. Please **TURN OFF ALL** smart phones or any other device that will interrupt either you or the instructor. The nature of the topics we will be discussing should provoke lively debate, and all students are strongly encouraged to participate. Please be mindful of divergent opinions, all of which are welcome by the instructor, and please keep up with the readings. No one should leave the class early **FOR ANY REASON** without clearing it with the instructor before class starts. The instructor reserves the right to give quizzes, assign papers, etc., if it becomes obvious that students are excessively absent and the readings are not being done in a timely fashion.

You will spend approximately 8-10 hours a week working on this course. Much of that time will involve reading the text and other course materials, but it will also include studying, completing quizzes on-line, participating in group discussions, and attending class.

The nature of the topics we will be discussing should provoke lively debate, and all students are strongly encouraged to participate both in class and online in the discussion sections. Please be mindful of divergent opinions, all of which are welcome by the instructor, and please keep up with the readings. The instructor reserves the right to give exams, assign papers, etc., if it becomes obvious that students are excessively absent and the readings are not being done in a timely fashion.

The course syllabus below provides a general plan for the course; **deviation may be necessary**.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

MODULES	TOPICS	READINGS
Module 1	- A Critical Approach to Corrections	Welch, Chapter 1; pp.506-510; 513 Latessa/Holsinger, Reading 1, 5-6
<b>Quiz 1, January 17<sup>th</sup></b>		
Module 2	- Social History of Punishment (War on the Poor)	Welch, Chapters 2-3 Latessa/Holsinger, Readings 2, 3
<b>Quiz 2, January 31<sup>st</sup></b> <b>Discussion 1: The House I Live In (closes)</b>		
Module 3	- Perspectives on Corrections (Theoretical Penology)	Welch, Chapter 4 Latessa/Holsinger, Reading 16-17
<b>Quiz 3, February 7<sup>th</sup></b>		
Module 4	- Social World of Imprisonment (Living & Working in Prison/Jail)	Welch, Chapters 5, 11, 14 Latessa/Holsinger, Readings 7-12
<b>Quiz 4, February 21<sup>st</sup></b> <b>Discussion 2: The Gray Box (closes)</b>		
Module 5	- Juveniles & the Elderly in Prison (From Diapers to Diapers)	Welch, Chapters 6-8, pp.563-564
	Women & Minorities in Prison (Gangs, Racism & Patriarchy)	Lattessa/Holsinger, Readings 4-18, 29-30
<b>Quiz 5, March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>		
Module 6	Sex Offenders, HIV/AIDS and the Mentally Ill Inmate	Welch, pp.554-562, Chapter 9
	Rioting and Rape: Inmate Violence & Social Control	Latessa, Readings 15, 19, 27-28
<b>Quiz 6, March 21<sup>st</sup></b> <b>Discussion 3: The Released (closes)</b>		
Module 7	The Death Penalty (Witness to an Execution)	Welch, Chapter 10

### **Quiz 7, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Module 8	Torture, Detainees and the War on Terror	Welch, Chapters 12, 17
	Legal Considerations (Do Inmates Deserve Rights?)	Latessa/Holsinger, Reading 14

### **Quiz 8, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Discussion 4: Death By Fire; Solitary Nation (closes)**

Module 9	The Corrections Industry: Technocorrections, Privatization, Probation & Parole, Big Business	Welch, Chapters 13, 15 Latessa/Holsinger, Reading 13
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### **Quiz 9, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Module 10	Prisoner Reentry: Substance Abuse, Faith-Based Programs, Halfway Houses, Net-Widening	Welch, Chapter 16 Latessa, Readings 20, 23-26,
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#### **Discussion 5: Lost in Detention (closes April 25<sup>th</sup>)**

#### **Quiz 10: May 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm-6:30pm (during final exam time)**

## **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, ADA STATEMENT**

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the Disabilities Resource Center (DRC). A DRC Counselor will coordinate those services. No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the University of Georgia. The University of Georgia adheres to affirmative action policies designed to promote diversity and equal opportunity for all faculty and students.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

By downloading/receiving the syllabus, I acknowledge that I have received the prospectus for this course. I have read it and the instructor has explained the requirements for this course. I have had the opportunity to ask questions to clarify matters not clear to me.