CJA 531 – Probation and Parole – Community Corrections

Fall Semester, 2006
Tuesday 1900-2140
Classroom WC-230

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Course Requirements

1. Mid Term Examination
   Multiple Choice and Short Answer
   Based on readings, lecture/discussion
   Mid Term will cover Chapters 1-4, 6 and 12
   25 Points

2. Final Examination
   Multiple Choice, Short Answer, Case Study
   Based on readings, lecture/discussion, projects
   Final will cover be cumulative
   25 Points

3. Group Project
   40 Points

4. Class Participation (Attendance will be taken at the end of each class)
   10 Points

Total points possible 100

Grading Range:
93 to 100 points A
90 to 92 points A-
87 to 89 points B+
83 to 86 points B
80 to 82 points B-
77 to 79 points C+
73 to 76 points C
70 to 72 points C-
60 to 69 points D
59 and Below F

Class Schedule:
Schedule may change at instructor’s discretion.

Week 1(8/29)
Introduction

Week 2(9/5)
Chapter 1 – Introduction to Community Based Corrections
Chapter 3 – Probation
“Broken Windows” Probation: Youthful Offender Program
Week 3(9/12)
Chapter 2 – Diversion, Pre-Trial Release and Community Courts
Chapter 4 – Probation Supervision, Introduction to Pre Sentence Investigations, Conditions of Probation, Probation Classification Systems, Risk/Needs

Week 4(9/19)
Chapter 12 – Programs for Juveniles
Juvenile Field Services
Breaking Cycles

Week 5(9/26)
Principles of Evidence Based Practices
Research on Probation pg-93-99 (ch.3)

Week 6(10/3)
Chapter 6 – Offender Supervision: Control and Public Safety Issues
Adult Supervision Programs

Week 7(10/10)
Mid-Term Exam

Week 8(10/17)
Chapter 8 – Community Residential Centers (Halfway Houses)
Chapter 9 – Problems and Needs of Drug and Alcohol-Abusing Offenders, Proposition 36 program

Week 9(10/24)
Chapter 7 – Economic Sanctions: Fines, Fees, Restitution, and Community Service
Chapter 5 – Parole and Other Prison Release Programs

Week 10(10/31)
Chapter 10 – Sex Offenders in Community Corrections
Sex Offender Treatment

Week 11(11/7)
Mentally Ill Offenders in Community Corrections

Week 12(11/14)
Chapter 11 – Problems and Needs of Female Offenders
Girls Rehabilitation Facility
Survival Guide for new Probation Officers

Week 13(11/21)
Research Paper Due
Group Presentations

Week 14(11/28)
Group Presentations

Week 15 (12/5)
Special Operations
Review for Final

Week 16
Final Exam To be determined
**Group Project: What works in Community Corrections**

Historically, very little research had been done on the effectiveness of community based corrections. However, recently the implication of literature and its relevance to community corrections have opened up avenues to a myriad of supervision/treatment/educations programs around the country that have proven to be effective in positively changing offender behavior. Probation and Parole Department’s throughout the United States have begun to integrate the literature in the type of programs they implement.

As a group (5 students) your research paper will examine the “what works” literature in area of your choice.

The assignment has three parts:

**Project Outline: 10 points**
- Each group will turn in a research design and working bibliography on 10/10. It must answer the following questions in your typed proposal:
  - What is the title of the project?
  - What research question(s) do you hope to answer with this project? (problem/objective) So what? Why is this significant?
  - What does the existing secondary literature conclude about your research question(s) (literature review—be sure to check library collections and online databases Criminal Justice Abstract, Probation/Parole, Sociology Abstract, etc.)?
  - What is your working bibliography?
  - How does this topic meet the objective related to this class?

Be prepared to discuss your proposal in class.

*I will be happy to discuss your topic with you before it is due.

**Group research paper: 20 Due 11/21**

You will turn in your typed final paper (15-20 pages) as a group in class on 12/05. Please note that plagiarism will result in an automatic “F” (0 points) for the assignment. If you have any questions about how to cite your material, please see me and I will gladly assist you. Use the American Psychological Association (APA) publication manual guide for reference.

**Group Presentation: 10 points**

Groups are encouraged to use any visual tools necessary to effectively present their group project.

**Peer assessment:**

After the completion of your group project, each member of the group must grade themselves and their fellow group members for their contributions to the group project on a 100-point scale. Each group member will place their numerical grades next to each group members’ name, as well as a short rationale as to why each grade was provided. For example:

Gonzalo Mendez (me): 75% I met my objectives as met by the group leader, however, I missed three meetings due to my inability to take my commitment to my team seriously.

Make sure to write “me” next to your self-assessment so I know who wrote each assessment. The grades must then be sealed in individual envelopes and submitted—along with the envelopes of the rest of your group members—with the final research paper. The average of each group member's assessments will be his or her grade for this 20-point portion of the assignment.

Please note that if any group member shirks their responsibilities as assigned by their group, they can receive a “death penalty” for this assignment in question up to 20 points earned by other group members for the briefing assignment in which they failed to complete their assigned responsibilities) as adjudicated by the professor. Group
members have the responsibility of notifying me of such behavior as they happen, so that I can intervene and try to remedy the situation so that we can try to avoid things getting to this point.

**Late Project Policy**: 10% grade reduction per week; not accepted after 2 weeks from due date

**House keeping:**

Please let me know of any special circumstances regarding your ability to attend class or either complete assignments by the given due dates (e.g., work schedule, learning disorder, conflict with other classes, etc.). Note that you must notify me before, not after, these assignments are due and that I will require proof of said difficulty. Failure to do so will result in an F or no-credit for the assignment.

Please know that you are responsible for being aware of any revisions made to this syllabus during the course of the semester. If there is a change in directions for assignments, readings, class schedule, etc., I will announce such changes in class. If you miss class, please ask me if any such changes have been made. Once again, you are responsible for any possible revisions.

On a final note, I want you to know that I seek to foster a classroom environment where ideas and opinions may clash, but mutual respect always reigns supreme. If there is ever a time where you feel uncomfortable in class or that your voice, thoughts or opinions are not heard by me or your classmates, please see me immediately so that we can work together towards a remedy that will make this seminar experience a positive one for you.

Laptops, cell phones, PDA during class hours are not permissible.