

CCJS 450/SOCI 450 - PUNISHMENTS AND CORRECTIONS – Fall 2009

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an overview of the problems created by pressures to punish and control criminals, the politics of control strategies, the use and misuse of jail, prison, probation and parole, the concept of corrections and alternatives to incarceration. Course readings and discussion will include an historical review of punishment philosophies and practices and contemporary correctional policies, practices, and issues.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The overall course objectives are to improve critical thinking skills, develop oral and written communication skills, understand correctional theories and research and relate correctional theory to practice. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Through readings, lectures and class discussion, learning about the complex issues involved in the U.S. correctional system and those individuals who are under the supervision of the system.
2. Writing papers that involve the analysis of a specific issue pertaining to corrections that are part of the required course readings.
3. Individual and/or group presentations on a specific topic that is relevant to the study of corrections. This includes papers and oral presentations.