

# Syllabus

## MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

<b>Academic Term and Year</b>	Fall 2019
<b>Course Prefix and Number</b>	CJ 386
<b>Course Title</b>	Corrections Systems & Practices
<b>Days, Time and Location of Class Meeting</b>	Online
<b>Instructor's Contact Information</b>	
Name:	O. Oko Elechi, Ph.D.
Office Location:	SOCIAL SCIENCE BUILDING, ROOM M
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 11:00 – 12 noon/1:00 – 6:00 pm; Wednesdays 1:00 – 6:00 pm; Thursdays: 11:00 – 12 noon or by appointment.
Office Phone Number:	662-254-3369 or 662-254-3364
E-Mail Address:	<a href="mailto:Oko.elechi@mvsu.edu">Oko.elechi@mvsu.edu</a>
<b>Mission of the Criminal Justice Program</b>	The Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice provides students with the knowledge, skills, and professional abilities relevant to the criminal justice field. Students will explore the theoretical, operational, and legal components of law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Graduates are prepared for careers in the public or private sectors of the criminal justice system.
<b>Course Description</b>	An introductory course in corrections that examines relevant correctional practices, such as security and control in prisons, treatment in prisons, classification system, prison industries. The course also reviews evolutionary developments in American corrections and philosophy of punishment. Issues involving historic and current topics on jails, prisons, and community-based corrections are also discussed.
<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME (SLO):</b>	<p>Upon completion of the undergraduate program in criminal justice, the student should demonstrate understanding of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime issues, trends, and basic legal principles in America</li> <li>• The social, economic and political forces that influence the definition and response to crime in America</li> <li>• The history, development and operations of the criminal justice system</li> </ul>

<p><b>Expected Student Learning Outcomes:</b></p>	<p>Upon successful completion of the course, students who take this course will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the range of purposes served by the corrections system</li> <li>• Understand the corrections systems framework and why it is useful</li> <li>• Understand the major forms of punishment from the Middle Ages to the American Revolution</li> <li>• Understand the contributions of the classical and other criminological theories to the understanding of the operations of the corrections system</li> <li>• Understand the legal issues involved in the administration and management of American correction.</li> <li>• Understand the social issues affecting offenders and offenders' population in state and federal prison.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Course Requirements</b></p>	
<p>Required textbook(s):</p> <p>Supplemental Textbook (Optional):</p>	<p><b>Clear, T. R., Cole, G.F., &amp; Reisig, M.D. (2016). American Corrections (11<sup>th</sup> Edition). Belmont, CA.: Wadsworth-Cengage Learning.</b></p> <p>Cullen, F.T., Jonson, C.L &amp; Stohr, M. K. (2014). The American Prison: Imagining a Different Future. Thousand Oaks, CA.: Sage Publications, Inc..</p> <p>Krisberg, B., Marchionna, S. &amp; Hartney, C. (2015). American Corrections: Concepts and Controversies. Thousand Oaks, CA.: Sage Publications, Inc.</p>
<p>Class attendance and Participation:</p>	<p><u>Weekly Assignments</u></p> <p>Please complete a two page review of the assigned readings. The review should include summary/generalization of the assigned reading. The review should identify at least five major arguments of the reading and a brief critique of the reading.</p>
<p>Make-up policy:</p>	<p><u>Make-up Assignments/Exams</u></p> <p>Make-ups maybe allowed in this course ONLY if a student can demonstrate (with documents), a legitimate excuse for not completing an assignment as scheduled. A grade of "I" (incomplete) can only be issued to a student with a documented proof of an unavoidable event (sickness, accident,</p>

	death, etc.), as described in the Students' Handbook. Otherwise, there is NO opportunity for "I" grade in this course.
Course Drops/Incompletes:	Students not completing the course for any reason are required to submit official drop notices to the Registrar's Office prior to the deadline date. <b>This is your responsibility.</b> Failure to comply with the procedure <u>WILL</u> result in your receiving a letter grade of "F" or "UF".
Cheating and plagiarism policy:	<p>Cheating in any fashion will not be tolerated, including but not limited to plagiarizing another's words, work or ideas on individual class assignments.</p> <p>To address the situation of plagiarism, the University has implemented <i>Turnitin</i> to fight plagiarism and improve reading, writing, and research skills. <i>Turnitin</i> is a comprehensive plagiarism prevention system that lets faculty quickly and effectively check all students' work. Results are based on exhaustive searches of billions of pages from both current and archived instances on the Internet.</p> <p>Plagiarism will result in at least a failing grade for the assignment(s) and/or course.</p>

### Learning Assessment & Course Requirements

Weekly Discussion	100 points
Weekly Reviews	100 points
Mid-Term Examination	100 points
Final Examination	100 points
Term Paper	100 points

**Total: 500%**

### Grading Scale:

A	=	500 – 450 points (100 – 90%)
B	=	449 - 400 points (89 – 80%)
C	=	399 – 350 points (79 – 70%)
D	=	349 – 300 points (69 – 60%)
F	=	299 points or below (59 – 0%)

Listed below are suggested topics for your term paper. The topic you choose for the term paper must be one of those listed below unless you had a prior approval from me to research a particular issue. It helps to choose a topic that touches you personally – that is one that you can relate with for one reason or the other. You may find it more motivating also to choose a topic that addresses a problem that is relevant to your political/social interests, community or gender interests or one that speaks to the needs of the agency where you work.

The term paper should be at least 5 pages long, and should include the following sections: Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Discussion and Conclusion. Your paper must be typewritten, using 1.5 line spacing, and must be properly referenced using the APA referencing

style. Ensure that your work conforms to proper use of grammar, spelling and sentence structure. Your paper should read like a very well written journal article.

I encourage you to discuss the research project with each other. You must however, submit a work that is truly yours. In other words, while two or more people can write on the same topic, the paper you submit must reflect individual enterprise, that is, you are not allowed to collaborate on the actual writing of the assignment.

The following are suggested outlines for your term paper:

- a. Introduction (Problem statement)
- b. Literature Review (Review of extant literature on the subject).
- c. Research Design (Methods applied to obtain materials for the study)
- d. Research Findings
- e. Discussion of Research Findings
- f. Implications of Study/Research Findings for policy/solving of real life problem.

The following are good sources for data for your term paper: (The University Library will be your best place to start your inquiry. Do not also forget that I remain your other source for guidance, and I am available to assist you when you call on me. To complete a good research paper, you must give yourself time. Start now to put your materials and thoughts together. It is not possible to write a good research paper within 24 hours).

- a. Refereed Academic/ Professional Journals
- b. Books published by Academic Presses
- c. Magazines or Newspapers that are highly regarded
- d. The Mainstream Popular Press
- e. Internet sources (etc).

### TERM PAPER – SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Are Boot Camps a Good Way to Deal With Youthful Offenders?
2. Should Society Invest Resources in Improving the Health of Current and Former Inmates?
3. Make a Case for Family Reunification in the Prisoner Reentry Process.
4. What Should be Done for Special Needs Offenders in the Community?
5. Should the Corrections Institution be Privatized?
6. Should the Death Penalty Be Abolished?
7. Supermax Prisons: Valuable or Vile?
8. Should There Be Laws requiring Registration and Community Notification for Convicted Sex Offenders?
9. Should Prisoners be Entitled to full Civil and Human Rights?
10. Is Selective Incapacitation An Effective Policy for Reducing Crime?
11. Should There Be Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Criminal Offenses?
12. Is the Restorative Justice Model an Effective Model for Criminal Justice?
13. Is There any Future for Corrections in the Community?
14. Corrections and Restorative Justice Systems.

## EVALUATION RUBRIC FOR COURSE TERM PAPER

The following are the criteria I will base my evaluation of your Term Paper. The relevance of the content to the subject matter, and how you organize, present ideas, apply the relevant theoretical framework, creatively interject your opinions and your English usage. In addition to evaluating the different elements of the paper, a holistic view on how these features are brought together to form a total work is important.

A. For a paper to score an A it must meet the following criteria. The paper comprehensively addresses the subject matter. The thesis, arguments and all supporting evidence show a clear understanding of the issues. The paper clearly, effectively and insightfully develops and conveys a point of view. Its organization and focus is also very clear, coherent, and ideas smoothly progress from one to the other, and also demonstrating excellent critical thinking and supported with appropriate examples. There are no major errors in vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling, citation, punctuation and paragraphing. It must meet the APA format and present a complete Bibliography in a separate page.

B. A paper in the B grade range must meet the following criteria:

Show significant mastery of the subject matter; however, showing occasional errors in thought and quality; the paper is clearly and effectively developed and presented, demonstrating reasonable critical thinking, coherence in thought, and progression of ideas; occasional mistakes which do not impede the meaning and clarity of the statement in grammar, word selection, sentence structure, spelling, paragraphing. Appropriate evidences are provided to support paper thesis, arguments and opinions. The References must be complete and the APA writing format followed.

C. A paper in the C or lower range has the following weaknesses:

The paper shows some understanding of the subject matter however with significant errors that compromises the quality of the paper. The theories selected for analysis do not fit or are misapplied. One or more of the important elements of the paper is missing. The paper in significant respects is unfocused and or disjointed and incoherent. There are several grammatical, sentence structure and spelling mistakes. The citations and references are either lacking and or not properly done.

### **Grade Appeals:**

Any student who believes that s/he has been graded unfairly, even after talking with me about the grade, may appeal that grade by following University procedures as explained in the Student Handbook. Please keep records of all graded assignments and make all appeals in writing with the proper documentation. It is the student's responsibility to prove that s/he has been graded unfairly.

### **Attendance and Participation Policy:**

You earn grades for class attendance and participation in all class activities and discussions. To earn grades for participation, you must do your readings and show you understand what was presented in the

class readings.

**Special Needs and Accommodations:**

Students with special needs/disabilities of any type who require special accommodation in the classroom and during instruction and/or testing should notify the instructor during their first full week of class. Students should also have written confirmation by qualified experts of the disability on file with the Office of Academic Affairs and the ADA office on MVSU campus. For help with papers, please use your University Writing Center often

**Academic Integrity:**

All acts of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating on exams, plagiarism, internet papers, paraphrasing internet papers, presenting someone else's work as your own, failing to meet academic and professional requirements, will result in an automatic "F". The University's academic honesty and plagiarism policies are enforced in this course.

ADA Syllabus Statement (Fall 2019)	
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Mississippi Valley State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Services for Students with Disability Office to obtain this service. Disabilities covered by the ADA may include learning, physical, psychiatric, vision, hearing, or chronic health disorders. Students who are uncertain if their condition/disability is qualified should contact the SSD Office.

Mrs. Kathy Brownlow/ ADA Coordinator

Social Science Building Office 105

Phone/e-mail: 662-254-3443, kbrownlow@mvsu.edu.

Weeks	Assignments	Time
Week 1	Blackboard Orientation; Review of Syllabus and Introduction	30 Minutes
Week 2	Review of Chapter 1 of text	180 Minutes
Week 3	Review of Chapter 2 of text	180 Minutes
Week 4	Review of Chapter 3 of text	180 Minutes
Week 5	Review of Chapter 4 of text	180 Minutes
Week 6	Review of Chapter 5 of text	180 Minutes
Week 7	Review of Chapter 6 of text	180 Minutes
Week 8	Review of Chapter 7 of text	180 Minutes
Week 9	Review of Chapter 8 of text	180 Minutes
Week 10	Review of Chapter 9 of text	180 Minutes
Week 11	Review of Chapter 10 of text	180 Minutes
Week 12	Review of Chapter 11 of text	180 Minutes
Week 13	Review of Chapters 12/13 of text	180 Minutes
Week 15	Review of Chapters 14/15/16 of text	200 Minutes
Week 16	Review of Chapters 17/19/19	200 Minutes
Week 17	Term Paper and Final Examination due	1500 Minutes
	<b>DISCUSSION FORUM ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Discussion 1		60 Minutes
Discussion 2		60 Minutes
Discussion 3		60 Minutes
Discussion 4		60 Minutes
Discussion 5		60 Minutes
Discussion 6		60 Minutes
Discussion 7		60 Minutes
Discussion 8		60 Minutes
Discussion 9		60 Minutes
Discussion 10		60 Minutes
Discussion 11		60 Minutes
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5000 MINUTES</b>



