

CRM 772
Applied Evidence-Based Practices in Community Corrections
Fall 2016
Course Syllabus

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Office Hrs: I will be in my office regularly throughout the week and should not be difficult to contact. You should always feel free to email me with any questions or concerns. My official hours are 10-12:30 on Tuesday and Thursday. I am typically in my office on other days as well. If desired, you are welcome to set up an appointment to call me or meet with me in person.

Course Description:

This course addresses a critical question facing contemporary correctional agencies:
a) What approaches are most effective in reducing recidivism for offenders under correctional supervision? In this course we will focus primarily on community corrections, although prisons are a gateway to community corrections and will receive some attention. The course takes an active learning approach with an emphasis on applying knowledge to real life situations.

Course Goals and Assessment for Students:

Goal 1: Critically examine principles and programs to determine their effectiveness in reducing recidivism primarily in a community corrections context.

Goal 2: Recognize key barriers and challenges facing the implementation and sustainability of evidence-based (research-informed) policies and practices.

Assessment: These goals will be assessed through weekly assignments, peer reviews, and a final paper.

Required Readings:

Latessa, E. J., Listwan, S. J., & Koetzle, D. (2014). *What works (and doesn't) in reducing recidivism*. Cincinnati, OH: Anderson Publishing.

Additional class readings will be posted on the Blackboard site. Each student is also required to collect and review additional scholarly literature to enhance their final paper.

Course Requirements

Weekly Assignments

Students will receive assignments on a weekly basis that focus on the application of course concepts, themes, and research to actual correctional practice. These assignments will be active-learning oriented and challenge the student to reflect deeply and critically about the content and its implications for criminal justice policy and practice.

Peer Review Discussions

Students are required to respond to four of their classmates' weekly assignment entries during each week. Comments should offer substantive and constructive criticism of the work of each peer.

We will use Discussion Board (DB) for class discussions of the weekly assignments. Guidelines and directions will be provided on the Blackboard site.

Students must have each week's material read by the corresponding Monday. Reading the material by Monday is necessary so that discussion over weekly questions can begin immediately each respective week.

Final Paper

A final paper is required which takes a comprehensively look at the course and is centered on identifying 10 key guidelines for correctional policy makers to consider when attempting to reduce offender recidivism. The paper should be approximately 25 pages in length, including an executive summary/abstract, introduction, body, conclusions, reference page, tables, and figures. Papers must be written in APA format.

Final Paper Due Date: **December 12, 2015 at 5p.m.**

Schedule of Topics*

WK 1: (8/22)	Introductory Discussion; Review syllabus, Black Board Layout, and Required Videos
WK 2: (8/29)	Historical and Foundational Issues
WK 3: (9/6)	Risk and Needs
WK 4: (9/12)	Theory into Practice
WK 5: (9/19)	Changing Behavior and Dealing with Offenders
WK 6: (9/26)	Responsivity (The Last of the RNR Trilogy)
WK 7: (10/3)	Looking at What Does Not Work—Or Does It?

WK 8: (10/10)	Drugs Offenders
WK 9: (10/17)	Drug and Problem Courts
WK 10: (10/24)	Sex Offenders
WK 11: (10/31)	Gender-Specific Issues
WK 12: (11/7)	Prisons—A Gateway to Community Corrections
WK 13: (11/14)	Prisoner Reentry
WK 14: (11/21)	Thanksgiving Week
WK 15: (11/28)	Implementation
WK 16: (12/5)	Community and Context
WK 17: (12/12)	Finals Week

Course Grade:

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

<u>Evaluation Component</u>	<u>Proportion of Final Grade</u>
Weekly Assignments	40%
Peer Reviews	30%
Paper	30%

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	69 or below

Course Jurisdiction:

The course instructor has original jurisdiction over this class and may deny a student who is unduly disruptive the right to participate in this class. A disruption is defined here as anything that distracts the instructor or other students from the online learning experience. Class disruptions can involve (but are not limited to) making rude, insensitive, or threatening comments or using unprofessional language on discussion board. The course instructor may have a student administratively withdrawn from a course upon showing of good cause and with the concurrence of the department head. The appeals process in case of such administrative withdrawal shall be as stated in the academic regulations under “Grade Re-evaluation Based on Performance.”

Attendance

While there is no official attendance policy as this is an online course, students are expected to keep up with the readings and participate in discussions considering that the DB feature makes up a considerable part of your grade evaluation.

Academic Dishonesty:

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the university's student honor code, *Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures*, available at

http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3_01_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm

and also available at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy. Note that I will submit an "XF" grade for any act of academic dishonesty.

Dropping a Class:

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the [Office of the Registrar](#) at 836-5520.

Nondiscrimination Policy:

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office of Equity and Diversity, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, (417) 836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head.

Disability Accommodation:

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Director of the Disability Resource Center, Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192 or 417-836-6792 (TTY), www.missouristate.edu/disability/contact.htm. Students are required to provide documentation of disability to the Disability Resource Center prior to receiving accommodations. The Disability Resource Center refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, 417-836-4787, <http://psychology.missouristate.edu/lcd>

Emergency Response Statement:

Please review the following which is applicable for seated classes on campus.

At the first class meeting, students should become familiar with a basic emergency response plan through a dialogue with the instructor that includes a review and awareness of exits specific to the classroom and the location of evacuation centers for the building. All instructors are provided this information specific to their classroom and/or lab assignments in an e-mail prior to the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost and Safety and Transportation. Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional options when applicable with the instructor. For more information go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.

Cell Phone Policy:

Please review the following which is applicable for seated classes on campus.

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.