

CRM 377-900
Inmate Voices: Examining the Effects of Incarceration
Fall 2018

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. – noon and 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Also by appointment.

Welcome to our course! This syllabus will provide you with important information concerning our course, university & classroom policies, required materials, my expectations of you, and what you can expect from me. Please take the time to read our syllabus thoroughly and let me know if you have any questions.

Course Description: In this course students will attempt to reach beyond assumptions and expectations about the incarcerated by exploring the experiences and perceptions of prison inmates as expressed through their own writings. This course will deepen students' understanding of the effects and experience of incarceration on inmates, as well as their children, families, communities, and prison staff.

Required Course Texts: There are two required texts for this class. All other materials will be provided by the instructor.

George, E. (2015). *A woman doing life: Notes from a prison for women* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Hassine, V. (2011). *Life without parole: Living and dying in prison today* (5th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Student Learning Outcomes: Below are my projected learning outcomes for you as a student in this course.

The Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice is committed to six core learning outcomes for its students which you can read at:

http://criminology.missouristate.edu/undergraduate/Learning_Outcomes.htm

As follows, this course addresses five of those learning outcomes:

- *SLO1: Students will demonstrate academic proficiency in the core criminal justice areas (law enforcement, law, and corrections).*

- *SLO2: Students will be able to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, using appropriate references and technologies.*
- *SLO4: Students will be able to evaluate ethical issues related to the criminal justice system and criminology.*
- *SLO5: Students will identify issues of diversity and human rights in relation to the workings of the criminal justice system and criminology.*
- *SLO6: Students will employ critical thinking skills when evaluating issues in criminology and criminal justice.*

Classroom & University Policies

Below are important classroom and University policies. Please read carefully.

Late Work

Late work is not accepted in this class unless a specific hardship or emergency warrants an exception. Should an emergency occur that will impact your ability to submit an assignment on time, please let me know right away. If I deem that the situation warrants an extension, accommodations will be made. Please note that it is important to me as an instructor that all of my students are given equal opportunities. Extensions will not be given without careful consideration and appropriate verification.

Final Grades

It is important to me that all of my students are treated equally, fairly, and given the same opportunities to earn points and achieve the grade that reflects their ability and effort. I therefore do not adjust final grades by curving, rounding up or down, or offering certain students extra credit opportunities that are not offered to all students. Once your final grade is accurately calculated, it is final and will not be adjusted or changed. Appeals and requests due to hardship need to be communicated to me at the time of the disabling or distracting event, not after your final grade has been calculated.

Communication

It is important to me that I have good communication with my students. Besides talking to me in person, email is the most efficient way to reach me. I work hard to respond to student emails within 48 business hours. If you do not hear back from me within two business days, please follow up with me.

Academic Integrity

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 academic integrity policy plus additional more-specific policies for each class. The University policy, formally known as the "Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures" is available online at http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3_01_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm and also 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. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty (as defined by the university) will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy. Please note that any person plagiarizing will receive a “O” for the assignment and risks the possibility of an “F” or “XF” for the course. This means that you must turn in original work created by you specifically for this course, as well as cite authors that you paraphrase or quote in your papers, assignments, and in our online discussion forums. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty you need to ask me (your instructor) and/or refer to the University’s policy. Please note that all of your written assignments will be run through Safe Assign in order to check for incidents of plagiarism and duplicate submission.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

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 for Institutional Equity and Compliance, 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. Please visit the OED website at www.missouristate.edu/equity/. It is personally important to me that we create a learning environment together where no student experiences discrimination due to sex, age, sexual and/or gender identity, race or ethnicity, religious affiliation, political affiliation, or economic status. Please work with me in cultivating and maintaining such an environment, and alert me quickly to any indication of discrimination in our class or campus.

Statement on Disability Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability and anticipate barriers related to this course, it is important to request accommodations and establish an accommodation plan with the University. Please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<https://www.missouristate.edu/disability/>), Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192, to initiate the process to establish your accommodation plan. The DRC will work with you to establish your accommodation plan, or it may refer you to other appropriate resources based on the nature of your disability. In order to prepare an accommodation plan, the University usually requires that students provide documentation relating to their disability. Please be prepared to provide such documentation if requested. Once a University accommodation plan is established, you may notify the class instructor of approved accommodations. If you wish to utilize your accommodation plan, it is suggested that you do so in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Early notification to the instructor allows for full benefit of the accommodations identified in the plan. Instructors will not receive the accommodation plan until you provide that plan, and are not required to apply accommodations retroactively.

Cell Phone Policy

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.

Emergency Response Statement

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>.

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.

Audio and Video Recording Course Activity

Students may make audio or video recordings of course activity. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings from the course to individuals who are not students in the class is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and any of the students who are recorded.

Religious Accommodation

The University may provide a reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. In making this determination, the University reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship. The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the University. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their sincerely held religious belief shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a *Request for Religious Accommodation Form* to the instructor by the end of

the third week of a full semester course or the end of the second week of a half semester course.

Mental Health and Stress Management

As a student you may experience a range of personal issues that can impede learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. You can learn more about free and confidential Missouri State University Counseling Center services available to assist you at <https://counselingcenter.missouristate.edu/>.

Title IX Policy

Missouri State University has a Title IX policy that guides our response to instances of sexual violence. Sexual Violence includes: Rape, Sexual Assault, Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Discrimination, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, Sexual Harassment and Pregnancy issues. The Title IX policy can be located on the MSU Title IX website at www.missouristate.edu/titleix/. This website is also a good resource for any questions or issues involving Title IX and contains contact information for the MSU Title IX Office and staff.

If an MSU student discloses a Title IX related issue to a MSU faculty or staff member who is deemed to be a “Responsible Employee” under the policy, that faculty or staff member is **required to report** such disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator. A responsible employee includes any employee who has the authority to take action to redress sexual violence; who has been given the duty of reporting incidents of sexual violence or any other misconduct by students to the Title IX Coordinator or other appropriate school designee; or whom a student could reasonably believe has the authority or duty to take action. Taylor Health employees and MSU Counseling Center Clinicians are not considered to be Responsible Employees under the policy, and therefore, are not required to report Title IX issues to the Title IX Coordinator.

Chosen Name Policy/Gender Pronouns

A student may choose a name other than their legal name to identify themselves at Missouri State University. A chosen name is different than the student’s legal name. Refer to the [Chosen Name policy](#) for more information. Students can provide their chosen first and middle names in the *Profile* tab of [My Missouri State](#). In addition to your chosen name, please do not hesitate to let me know if there are specific pronouns by which you would prefer to be addressed.

Course Assignments & Grading: The following are brief descriptions of our major course assignments.

Student Profile Sheet: During our first module, I will ask each of you to submit a brief profile sheet so that I can learn more about you and your course goals.

Online Reading Journal: Thirteen of our modules will include one journal assignment covering a specific prompt related to that week's assigned reading. Please note that late submissions will not receive credit.

Class Attendance: Your attendance and engagement in our class sessions is important. However, I realize that perfect attendance is not always possible. You are able to miss TWO scheduled class sessions before non-attendance will begin impacting your final course grade.

Class Participation: The success of our course will be largely dependent on your level of engagement and participation in our class discussions. This is not the kind of class where you can just show up and absorb – you have to give something to it as well. Therefore, class participation will be graded separately from class attendance. Come to class discussions prepared to speak.

Exams: We will have a midterm and final exam. Both exams will include a mix of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. You will receive a study guide to help you prepare for both exams.

Grading Structure

A= 90%-100%

B= 80%-89.99%

C= 70%-79.99%

D= 60%-69.99%

F= Below 60%

Points Breakdown

Student Profile Sheet	10 points
Online Reading Journals: 13 modules @ 10 points per module	130 points
Class Session Attendance	55 points
In-Class Participation	35 points
Midterm Exam	50 points
Final Exam	70 points
TOTAL	350 points

Course Schedule

Below is a projected schedule for our course together; however, we may make adjustments as needed throughout the semester. Be sure to check Blackboard each week for our current schedule.

Module	Dates	Topic	Readings	Class Sessions	Assignments
Module 1	Monday August 20 – Sunday August 26	Female Prison Experience	<i>A Woman Doing Life</i> Introduction & Chapter 1	Monday: Course Overview & Introductions Wednesday: Lecture & Discussion	Blackboard: M1 Journal (Thurs) Email: Student Profile Sheet (Sun)
Module 2	Monday August 27 – Sunday September 2	Female Prison Experience	<i>A Woman Doing Life</i> Chapters 2-5	Monday: Book Discussion Wednesday: Book Discussion	Blackboard: M2 Journal (Thurs)
Module 3	Monday September 3 – Sunday September 9	Female Prison Experience	<i>A Woman Doing Life</i> Chapters 6-9	Monday: NO CLASS – Labor Day Holiday Wednesday: Book Discussion	Blackboard: M3 Journal (Thurs)
Module 4	Monday September 10 – Sunday September 16	Female Prison Experience	<i>A Woman Doing Life</i> Chapters 10-11 & Epilogue	Monday: Book Discussion Wednesday: Begin Film <i>What I Want My Words To Do To You</i>	(none)
Module 5	Monday September 17 – Sunday September 23	Expression & The Prison Experience	To Be Provided	Monday: Finish Film <i>What I Want My Words To Do To You</i> Wednesday: NO CLASS – Caryn will be at a conference	Blackboard: M5 Journal (Thurs)
Module 6	Monday September 24 – Sunday September 30	Prison Rape & Violence	To Be Provided	Monday: Lecture Wednesday: Discussion	Blackboard: M6 Journal (Thurs)
Module 7	Monday October 1 – Sunday October 7	Solitary Confinement	To Be Provided	Monday: Lecture Wednesday: Discussion	Blackboard: M7 Journal (Thurs)

Module 8	Monday October 8 – Wednesday October 10	Midterm Assessment		Monday: Optional Exam Prep Wednesday: Midterm Exam	(none)
	Thursday October 11 – Sunday October 14	Fall Break			
Module 9	Monday October 15 – Sunday October 21	Reentry & Reintegration	To Be Provided	Monday: Lecture Wednesday: Discussion	Blackboard: M9 Journal (Thurs)
Module 10	Monday October 22 – Sunday October 28	Death Row & Prison Staff	To Be Provided	Monday: Lecture Wednesday: Discussion	Blackboard: M10 Journal (Thurs)
Module 11	Monday October 29 – Sunday November 4	Juveniles in Detention, Placement, & Prison	To Be Provided	Monday: Lecture Wednesday: Discussion	Blackboard: M11 Journal (Thurs)
Module 12	Monday November 5 – Sunday November 11	Children, Families, & Communities	To Be Provided	Monday: Lecture Wednesday: Discussion	Blackboard: M12 Journal (Thurs)
Module 13	Monday November 12 – Sunday November 18	Male Prison Experience	<i>Life Without Parole</i> Chapters 1-5	Monday: Book Discussion Wednesday: Book Discussion	Blackboard: M13 Journal (Thurs)
	Monday November 19 – Sunday November 25	Thanksgiving Break			
Module 14	Monday November 26 – Sunday December 2	Male Prison Experience	<i>Life Without Parole</i> Chapters 6-10	Monday: Book Discussion Wednesday: Book Discussion	Blackboard: M14 Journal (Thurs)

Module 15	Monday December 3 – Sunday December 9	Male Prison Experience	<i>Life Without Parole</i> Chapters 11-15	Monday: Book Discussion Wednesday: Optional Exam Prep	Blackboard: M15 Journal (Thurs)
Finals Week				Final Exam is on Monday December 10 from 8:45–10:45 a.m.	