University of Guelph  
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

SOC 3740 – Corrections and Penology  
Fall 2018

Lecture: Wednesday 7:00 p.m. to 9:50 pm  
Location: TBA  
Instructor: C. Yule  
Email: cyule@uoguelph.ca

Course Description:  
This course examines the corrections component of the criminal justice system – the institutionalized system through which society incarcerates or otherwise punishes certain individuals who are deemed to be criminals. We will map out the political struggles and cultural shifts that led to the establishment of prisons as the pre-eminent modern form of punishment. Consideration will be given to the meanings, justifications, and purposes of punishment in relation to its broader social, cultural, political, and economic contexts. Theory and empirical research will be used to clarify the connections between social forces that both affect and are affected by the operation of corrections. Some of the key topics we will cover include: the history of punishment, punishment ideologies, recent trends in penal policy and practice (e.g., risk management), correctional institutions and officers, prison inmates, alternatives to prison, ‘special’ populations in prison, parole and release, and life after prison.

Course Objectives: The main learning objectives for this course include:

1. Developing a greater awareness and understanding of the role that punishment has in society; the purposes, uses, and limitations of punishment; the role of structural inequality and discrimination; historical changes and trends; and an appreciation of the impact of incarceration for individuals’ lives during incarceration and post-release.
2. Understanding and evaluating the policy and official discourses related to corrections and punishment in Canada.
3. Learning how to access and critically evaluate scholarly work. This will include being able to formulate a clear argument supported with scholarly evidence.

Course Reading: All readings will be available on ARES. You will not be required to purchase a textbook.

Assessment/Evaluation:  
Introductory assignment…required, but not graded  
Midterm Exam 1……………………..20%  
Written Assignment Part 1...........20%  
Written Assignment Part 2............25%  
Final Exam........................................30%  
Quizzes............................................5%

Class Format:  
The course will be primarily lecture-based, but will be supplemented with films, class discussion and debate, in-class exercises, and guest speaker(s). Student participation in this course is expected and encouraged.

Please note: I reserve the right to make changes to the outline as posted. I will provide a complete course outline on the first day of class.